

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. IV. No. 89.

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 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.

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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.

### Anti-Suffrage Humour (?)

Mr. Mark Sykes, the Conservative candidate in the Hull election campaign, is revealing new possibilities as to Women's Suffrage. He has graciously announced his intention to consult his wife on questions relating to women should he be elected to a seat at Westminster. If this were to be the rule it would be hard lines on bachelor Members. But the irony of the situation is that although the individual woman's voice is to guide her husband in his opinions, the collective voice of women does not count. The reasoning of Mr. Sykes is refreshingly amusing. But he gives quite a new lead which, if pushed to its logical conclusion, should seriously affect representation at Westminster. The great duty of woman is said to be in the home, and her chief concern the bearing and rearing of children, for which reason she is not to be bothered with the responsibility of enfranchisement—it would be too much for her! Now, says Mr. Sykes, it is only to be the mother who has given birth to and reared four children of intellectual capacity, who can be considered qualified to vote. If "efficient maternity" is to be the test for women, why not apply "efficient paternity" to men? How would the bachelor Members of the House like it? We pause for a reply.

### Women and the Education of the Negro.

It was gratifying to hear the warm tribute of praise of the work of women in connection with the liberation of the slaves in America, spoken by Dr. W. E. B. du Bois, when he was the guest of honour at the Lyceum Club last week. Dr. du Bois, eminent throughout the world as a scientist and writer, and specially known as the author of that notable book, "The Soul of Black Folk," is now in England to fulfil lecturing engagements with scientific societies, and he will also represent his people—the negro race—at the First Universal Races Congress, which meets in London at the end of July. He spoke with gratitude of the humanitarian sentiment shown by the women of the Northern States at the close of the Civil War towards the newly-liberated slaves, and especially with regard to the education of the children. Miss Elizabeth Robins, the well-known, clever American

author, added some further facts on the subject. She told how the effort was called, almost derisively, "The Crusade of the School Marm." The women who were moulding by education the rising generation of children in the Northern States, realised that if the negro children were to enter worthily into their inheritance of freedom, the field-guns must be followed by the alphabet. So they did not hesitate to face opposition from their friends in the North and a difficult situation in the South, but boldly carried the light of learning to those who needed it. This was half a century or so ago. Had it not been for the courage of these women so fine a representative of the negro race as Dr. du Bois might not have existed.

### Pioneer Suffrage Workers and the Slaves.

If Dr. du Bois had had time he would, no doubt, have spoken of the splendid work done in the great humanitarian movement for the liberation of the slaves by the brave suffrage pioneers of the 'fifties and 'sixties of last century. Such names as Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Mrs. Cady Stanton flash into the mind; they were working for the enfranchisement of women then, but they realised the immense importance of the anti-slavery movement, and organised a women's movement in aid of it. Women who belonged to it had slaves on their estates, and they proved themselves not only theoretical, but practical reformers, by setting free their slaves before the great day of liberation came. Yet women who took so noble a part in this noble work were not considered worthy to be set free themselves from the bond of unenfranchisement. The United States will have to liberate the women from their disabilities as has been done for the slaves.

### Women in Danger.

Two Englishwomen are under sentence of death for murder; one a maidservant in England, for the murder of her illegitimate son; the other a woman of standing in the Straits Settlements, who shot a man in self-defence. Both have been tried by a jury of men and condemned to death. Small wonder that the cases are arousing indignation, for the element of doubt is so strong. It behoves all women to do their utmost to secure a remission of the sentences. We are taking steps to have questions asked in the House of Commons. In view of the doubt of the evidence the full penalty of the law should not be exacted. In the case of the servant the body of the boy found in the well has been proved to be that of a much older child than the son of the condemned woman, and there are other most serious discrepancies in the evidence. The death sentence was not carried out in the case of the man condemned for the Clapham Common murder; it was possible for the cabmen to have been mistaken on a dark night in identifying Morrison; and the final, irremedial step was not taken. Surely, then, the prerogative of mercy should be exercised in the case of Mary Ann Nash, when the identification of the body, supposed to be her son, is open to such serious doubt. The doubt in the other case is also emphatic. A woman may well act in desperation when her honour is at stake. A man is justified if, in self-defence against robbery or violence, he takes the law into his hands and shoots his assailant. And the woman's crime was in self-defence. She ought to have equal consideration.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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### AT HEADQUARTERS.

Be sure to make known the "Gardenia" meeting, Wednesday evening, July 12, when Mrs. Despard will speak on "Clinics and Open-air Schools." Invitation cards are also ready for Mrs. How Martyn's lecture, July 19, on "The Economic Status of Married Women," and for Mrs. Drysdale's lecture on "Emancipation and Motherhood," on July 26.

The N.E.C. meets in London, Friday and Saturday, July 21 and 22, so that branches wanting the services of their representatives are asked to communicate at once with headquarters.

More voluntary workers are urgently needed to sell THE VOTE and help with outdoor meetings. Please send in names at once, read carefully the list of outdoor fixtures, and persuade all your friends in the various districts to attend them. These open-air meetings are the finest way of catching the ear of the men and women who know little of our Cause, and afford splendid opportunities for convincing them that we are earnest about Votes for Women. No member of the Women's Freedom League should appear at these meetings without wearing her badge and the colours of our League, and THE VOTE must of course be on sale at every meeting.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### MR. CHURCHILL QUESTIONED.

As no answer was received to our letter addressed to Mr. Churchill, steps were taken to get the matter raised in the House of Commons, and Mr. H. G. Chancellor very kindly undertook to draft and put the questions. As originally drafted they were as follows:—

Monday, July 3.

Mr. Chancellor: To ask the Home Secretary whether he is aware that after serving in Stafford Gaol a sentence of one week's imprisonment in the third division passed upon her on May 23 last for refusing to pay a dog licence, as a protest against her political disfranchisement, Mrs. Sproson was on June 20 tried a second time for the same offence and sentenced to one month's imprisonment in the first division; whether two trials and two sentences for one offence are lawful, and what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

Monday, July 3.

Mr. Chancellor: To ask the Home Secretary whether he is aware that in addition to a sentence of one month's imprisonment passed upon Mrs. Sproson for passive resistance to taxation her husband was sentenced to one week's imprisonment for aiding and abetting her, and leave to appeal refused to him, and whether, as his wife was held by the court to be sufficiently responsible to suffer the punishment named, he can see his way to prevent such manufacture of criminals and multiplication of punishments for single offences of a political character.

All questions have to be passed by the Speaker, and the first one was modified to read: "And whether he can see his way to take steps to avoid, in future, the infliction of two sentences for one offence." The second one was censured. In doing this the Clerk at the Table was merely upholding the traditions followed in all Government Departments in their treatment of married women. Married women are treated as individuals so long as there are penalties to be inflicted, but to curtail their liberty or hamper their activities the Law of Coverture is brought into force.

Mrs. Sproson may be treated as the owner of a dog, be liable for the fine, and for non-payment of it serve first a week and then a month's imprisonment. But Mrs. Sproson is a married woman under coverture, so the law secures a second victim in proceeding against her husband. If Mrs. Sproson happened to possess an income of her own she would not be treated as the

owner of that, the amount must be added to her husband's and he is held liable for income-tax.

This provides only another illustration that the whole Law of Coverture must be abolished in order to make it possible to improve the legal position of married women.

To the first question Mr. Churchill replied:—

The offence of which Mrs. Sproson was convicted on June 20 was not the same as that of which she was convicted on May 23. It is an offence against the law to keep a dog without a licence, and after her conviction of May 23 Mrs. Sproson continued deliberately to break the law. The punishment was a fine which she was well able to pay if she had wished.

I may add that the dog she kept was a dangerous one and had bitten three children, and that in spite of a friendly warning from a neighbour, whose little girl had been bitten by it, she allowed him to run at large. As the law stands no person can be punished twice for the same offence, but where an offence is repeated the penalty is usually increased, and in this particular case the law itself imposes an increased penalty for the second offence.

As usual, the Home Secretary entirely overlooks the political motive for Mrs. Sproson's action. He repeats the charge brought at the trial which was by no means proved, and omits altogether to say that the dog was dead before the trial came on. As the dog for which the tax was refused was the same dog, it is difficult to see where the one offence ended and the other began. In reply to our letter the following has at last been received:—

Whitehall, June 29, 1911.

Madam.—The Secretary of State, having carefully considered your application on behalf of Emma Sproson, who is now undergoing a sentence of imprisonment, I am directed to express to you his regret that he can find no sufficient ground to justify him, consistently with his public duty, in advising His Majesty to interfere in this case.

I am, madam, your obedient servant,

E. BLACKWELL.

We are now making efforts to get the sentences made to run concurrently. All friends who approach Members of Parliament should urge them to put this request before Mr. Churchill, as in this way Mrs. Sproson would have one week's remission of her excessive sentence of five weeks.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

N.B.—Mr. Sproson writes on Monday, July 3:—"I have just left Mrs. Sproson. I am glad to say she seems well, and is determined to do the full time which expires on July 21. I was only allowed to see her through a grating for fifteen minutes."—E. H. M.

### DR. ETHEL SMYTH'S CONCERT.

Dr. Ethel Smyth received a magnificent reception on the occasion of her choral and orchestral concert at the Queen's Hall on Thursday last. The programme consisted entirely of works by this talented composer. The overture from "The Wreckers" was given in fine style by the London Symphony Orchestra, and the choruses were admirably rendered by the Crystal Palace Choir of 200 voices. Madame Blanche Marchesi interpreted the Benedictus from Solem Mass in D with characteristic feeling, and her versatile powers as a great artiste were shown in her sympathetic exposition of the three songs from "The Wreckers." Mrs. Elsie Swinton sang two songs, "Odelette" and "Chryssilla," with understanding and much poetic charm, and Mr. Frederic Austin's fine voice was heard to advantage in the Anacreontic Ode. The "March of the Women" was given by the chorus and orchestra at the close of the programme with inspiration and fine effect. Jacques Vontade, the great French critic, has truly said of Dr. Ethel Smyth: "Her knowledge of her art is deep and multiple; she has mastered the great secrets, both mathematical and passional of harmony; the most learned must bow before her technique; others who, knowing nothing, are content to feel, succumb to the charm of her melodic invention, the exquisite novelty of her rhythms, the unknown accent she brings into music. Of a truth a great artist."

WHAT do we live for if not to make life less difficult or each other?—George Eliot.

WHATSOEVER things are true or honourable, or just or pure, or lovely, think on these things.—Phil. iv. 8.

'Tis not the grapes of Canaan that repay,

But the high faith that failed not by the way.

—Lowell.

EVERY man is an optimist who sees deep enough.—Edward Atkinson.

We are never defeated until we give up.—Edwin Booth.

### TREASURER'S NOTE.

It is very unfortunate that such an important part of the splendid Kensington Town Hall meeting as the appeal and collection should have to be put in the Treasury report a week after the account of the meeting. However, whereas the ordinary speeches at a meeting are an evanescent pleasure, Miss Jack's stirring and delightful appeal has left a tangible result which is as useful and gratifying to the Treasurer of the League now as it was a fortnight ago. Miss Jack emphasized the superior importance of deeds over words in the Treasury Department, and proved Edinburgh's recognition of the fact by handing me a cheque for £10. We have plenty of enthusiasm and true devotion to the cause, as we all thankfully acknowledge, but I cannot sufficiently impress upon our members that *no amount of enthusiastic help without money* will pay the inevitable expenses of any organised society, and on that account I am glad that I am enabled publicly to thank the Edinburgh Branch. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the work of the Scottish Branches in general, from the point of view of my department, and appreciation based less upon the fact that they have money than that they apparently understand the true use and importance of it. At this time we cannot afford to sit down and dream, and hope for the best: we must work and pay. As Goethe says:—

Mann mit zugenöpften Taschen,  
 Dir thut Niemand was zulieb;  
 Hand wird nur von Hand gewaschen  
 Wenn Du nehmen willst, so gib!

And this brings me to another point that I have at heart.

As you have read in this paper, Mrs. Sproson is again in prison for five weeks and for the same offence—tax resistance—for which she was imprisoned only a few weeks ago. She also told us that she was quite prepared to become a sort of "in and out" of prison if necessary. Mrs. Sproson is a fine example of that devotion and enthusiasm of which I have spoken earlier, and I hope that everyone will remember that her sacrifice will not be truly the glory of the League if the members do not support her by also making their sacrifices in whatever way they can. It is not everyone who can go to prison, but there are other ways of practising self-denial.

CONSTANCE TITE.

### NATIONAL FUND.

(Branch and District Funds not Included.)

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1910, £11,595 3s. 2d.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Amount previously acknowledged	11,547 1 0	Mrs. Drysdale	1 0 0
Miss C. Tite (collected)	2 0 0	Miss A. Munro	0 10 0
Mrs. Coates Hansen	0 5 0	Mrs. N. G. Aaron	0 10 6
(travelling expenses refunded)	1 0 0	Miss M. E. Baehle	0 5 0
Miss E. Murray	0 8 10	Sheffield Branch	0 12 0
Miss S. K. Huntsman	0 5 0	Mrs. A. Sanderson	0 5 0
Miss M. Whitehead	0 1 0	Miss Allen	0 2 0
Mrs. T. Barrett	0 1 0	Miss G. M. Hodgson	0 2 0
Miss M. E. Baehle	0 5 0	Miss L. Corben	0 8 0
Per Mrs. Despard—		Miss T. James (Hackney Branch)	0 1 0
Mrs. Fels	0 50 0 0	Miss M. E. Ainsley	0 2 6
Per Mrs. Syms—		Per Miss Sidley—	
Sale of Coconut Ice	0 1 8	Man Friend in Procession	0 1 0
Per Miss Woolf—		Procession Banners—	
C.T.O. (collected)	0 10 0	Acton Branch	0 8 6
Caravan, per Mrs. Tanner—		Anerley Branch	0 8 6
Profit on Votes	0 2 0	Croydon Branch	0 8 6
Collection	0 7 2	Dundee Branch	0 8 6
For Procession Fund:		Hamstead Branch	0 8 6
Edinburgh Branch	10 0 0	Urrnston Branch	0 8 6
Miss C. Tite	10 0 0	West Sussex Branch	0 8 6
"J. M. A."	10 0 0	Ipswich Branch, from	
"A Member of the Men's Committee of Justice for Women"	2 2 0	Mrs. Vulliamy	0 8 6
Mrs. Nourse	1 1 0	Sheffield Branch	0 8 6
Northern Heights Branch	1 1 0	Capitation Fees:	
Miss Jack	1 1 0	Dundee Branch	1 2 0
		Collections and Sales:	
		London	42 2 10
		Total	1,788 8 0

### CORRESPONDENCE.

\*\* Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

MADAM,—A report in your issue to hand of a speech made by Miss Nina Boyle, of Johannesburg, was brought before the Executive Committee of the Women's Enfranchisement League of Cape Colony at their monthly meeting. One or two errors appear to which they desire me to draw attention: No votes were taken from anyone in South Africa by the Act of Union, each Colony retaining its own peculiar franchises for a term of years. In Cape Colony women sit on and vote for School Boards; they vote for, but cannot sit on, Municipal Councils, nor could they in England until very recently! In Cape Colony women have no other vote. We are informed by a leading lawyer that they never had any other. The Cape has an educational property and sex qualification for the Parliamentary franchise. The other States of the Union have a sex and colour qualification, but neither educational nor property. The coloured men in Cape Colony who vote must be able to read and write, and possess land or earn salary to a considerable amount. They vary morally as do other people, but there was no question in the Act of Union of taking votes from white women and conferring them on black men, as the report referred to would suggest.—Trusting you will find space for this correction, yours sincerely,  
 LYNDALL SCHREINER,  
 Hon. Secretary W.E.L., Cape Colony.

## GRAND DEMONSTRATION

OF THE  
 National Federation of Women Workers  
 ON  
 Women and the Insurance Bill,  
 TRAFALGAR SQUARE,  
 SATURDAY, JULY 15,  
 4.30 p.m.

Amongst the speakers will be GEORGE LANSBURY, M.P., GEORGE BARNES, M.P., and Women Workers representing over a dozen trades.

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## WOMEN UNDER THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL.

CONTINUED.—IV.

### DOMESTIC SERVANTS & WOMEN WHO "LIVE IN."

According to Clause 7, "no insured person shall be entitled [e] to sickness or disablement benefit during any period when he is provided with board and lodging by his employer." This applies to all workers who "live in," and thus receive board and lodging as part of their payment. There are many men and women in the drapery and allied trades, and also servants, barmaids, restaurant, hotel and café servants, cashiers and book-keepers and shop assistants in various trades, housekeepers, and many other women in business houses, who will by this clause be excluded from any but medical benefit under this Bill, unless they leave their situation, although they are compelled apparently to pay the full contribution whatever the amount of their money wage. Men who are housed, as part of their wages, but not boarded, are not affected, such as gardeners, stablemen, &c. By far the greater number of persons employed under this condition are women domestic servants, and in the great majority of cases they will gain absolutely nothing from the payments they are compelled to make.

At the Census of 1901 there were 2,550,000 women in domestic service. For these the Bill resolves itself into simply an income-tax on wages. They will pay 13s. per year, receive no interest on money, and forfeit the whole of their payments if they marry and retire from direct wage-earning occupation. In return they will be entitled to free medical attendance and medicine, but as the employer is at present bound by law to provide these if his servant falls ill while in his service, the servant actually receives nothing whatever for her contributions, and her employer is relieved of the cost of medical attendance for his servants in return for his.

Two and a-half million women at 13s. each per year amount to £1,625,000 yearly, in return for which practically only a certain amount of medical benefit will have to be supplied. (*It is of the greatest importance that women auditors properly supervise the women's funds.*)

However, there appears to be nothing in the Bill to prevent "an insured person" who has been dismissed her situation on account of her condition, and is unable through same to obtain another, claiming and receiving sickness benefit on the ground of "bodily disablement," rendering her "unfit to provide her own maintenance," unless Clause 13 (iv.) is urged against her, viz., "sickness or disablement benefit is suspended on the ground that the same has been caused by the misconduct of the person claiming benefit," and even then she is still entitled to free medical benefit, if necessary. My view is that if the contributions have been paid there is no ground for refusing relief in such cases, and most certainly each case would have to be decided separately on the facts. Every woman so situated and in poverty should apply for her benefit. No doubt different views will be held in different districts. It is difficult to understand why *only* this illness should be discriminated against on the score of "misconduct," and the conclusion is almost forced on us that were it common to men and women alike (as are the results of drunkenness), this would not be the case. It is impossible, on the score of humanity, to disapprove of granting benefit under such conditions as above, but it should give the poor married woman furiously to think when she finds herself deprived of every benefit, and by the very party that is so anxious to include her on the Voters' Lists!

These remarks would not be complete without referring to Clause 34 (i.), by which a woman becoming a widow and returning to employment within the meaning of the Act, is admitted to insurance as fully paid up, the period between her marriage and one month from the death of her husband being disregarded for the purpose of reckoning arrears; this also applies to legal separations, the woman being regarded as

widowed at the date of such separation. But, of course, this only takes effect if the widows enter insurable work, or are able to pay the employers' contribution as well as their own, which would be 6d. per week. Any widow doing homework for her children would not be reinsured, and simply loses the whole of any money paid in while at work before marriage. Poor widows doing charring, sewing, or other "casual labour" would have to pay the above large voluntary insurance premium, and in a very great number of cases would be unable to do so, and would equally forfeit all beneficial provision made in early widowhood. This state of things is excused on the ground that the contributions of the young women are intended to cover those reinsuring on widowhood, whose claims fall entirely on the women's funds. Thus, while the joint economy of both husband and wife pays for the man's insurance out of their common income, men only are to draw benefits from these funds laid up by men and women, and women on widowhood are thrown back on the funds solely contributed to by women. Adequate comment almost fails! It is universally admitted that women's administrative capacity, labour and economy alone make it possible, as things are, for working-class and many middle-class homes to "pay their way," and no more unjust proposal can be imagined than that the savings and economy, the direct fruits of the wife's wit and labour, are to provide only for the man's sickness or declining years. I am reminded of the story of the old agricultural labourer, who never earned more than 11s. a week, brought up a large family "respectably," and saved £50. "Ah," said an envious neighbour, one night, when the "thrifty man" was boasting in the village alehouse, "but you couldn't a done it, bor, if you'd a bin a widower like me!"

Widows, over 50, who re-enter insurance should not allow their sickness benefit to be reduced in accordance with Table C, to 6s. for the first 13 weeks, as they can claim that arrears during coverture are to be disregarded, and they are entitled to benefits as if such arrears had never accrued. But the "sliding-scale" before referred to in these articles, will probably determine the amount due to them.

It is clearly stated (Clause 8 [vii.] [a]) that no insured persons are entitled to medical benefit (or anything else) for the first 6 months after the commencement of this Act, but according to Clause 10 (iv.) [c] no account shall be taken of any arrears of contributions accruing during the first 12 months after the commencement of this Act. So that wherever wished, one week's insurance may be paid before the end of the first 6 months from the date of the Bill becoming law, and no more need be paid until the end of the second 6 months, and as during the first 12 months no arrears made are to be taken into account, the contributor will then find herself in full benefit! And all contributors should see that in calculating their average of arrears at any date under Clause 10 (i.), no account is taken of any during the first 12 months after the passing of the Bill.

In my opinion, all women with any prospects or intentions of marriage at the date of the passing of this Bill should avoid payment, if possible, as they will obtain no just return for their contributions. Not one should become a "voluntary" contributor. Many may claim exemption on the ground that they are not employed during 13 weeks in every year and are "ordinarily dependent" on some other person. Seasonal workers, milliners, dressmakers, actresses, singers, dancers, &c., and all who live at home with their families while "out of work" can claim exemption on these grounds. I know of many young women, embroideresses, &c., who are "sent home" on "short time" whenever slack periods occur. If by adding these hours together it is found that they average thirteen or more working weeks per year, and if they "live at home" in any sense, they would be entitled to ask for certificates of exemption from their societies or the Local Health Committee.

LEAH ANSON.

## WOMEN AWAKENING IN CHINA.

When Chinese women begin to wake up to their long down-trodden condition, the world has indeed taken a step forward. And the step has been taken at last. These women who have suffered from time immemorial under the shameful and degrading laws of their country, are beginning to open their apathetic eyes and look about them.

The late Dowager Empress of China did a good deal toward the advancement of her women subjects. She cultivated the society of foreign ladies who came to her court, and, from them, she extracted quantities of useful information. The result is that the education of Chinese girls is now progressing rapidly. The Empress herself supervised the founding of schools. The imperial princesses have followed her example and gladly lend their patronage for any cause which has the improvement of women as its object. English is taught in all the schools and many women, not satisfied with the education their country supplies, have entered foreign universities, especially in this country and Germany.

Some months ago in Canton there was actually an enormous mass meeting which consisted entirely of women—10,000 of them—who wished to demonstrate their approval of the Japanese boycott. The platform and hall were decorated with banners and flags, and bands played at intervals during the proceedings. Everything at the meeting was done by women. Miss Pun/Kut Fang, who presided, made a stirring patriotic speech, calling upon the Chinese women to support the policy of their country's ministers. She concluded with the following words: "It rests with us to contribute our portion of patriotism and loyalty to our country and Emperor. I say women never lack such patriotism, and I call upon you, one and all, to show that China can rely on us whenever there is a call."

This was the first political meeting ever held in China by women, and there is no doubt that it inaugurated a new era, the progress of which their Western sisters will watch with interest.

## TAX RESISTANCE AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

BY FRANK SPROSON.

The position in Wolverhampton in regard to tax resistance is certainly of interest to the supporters of militancy.

We do meet occasionally in the Suffrage movement, the woman with the pitiful tale: I should like to help you, but I dare not; my husband is against me. But it is, indeed, a revelation to meet an enthusiastic supporter with an equally sympathetic husband, who finds herself hampered, through the decisions of magistrates who hold the husband liable for the deeds of his wife.

Ever since I began to take a serious interest in politics I have believed in sex equality, and have never denied my wife the freedom that I myself claim, and, as I shall endeavour to show, it became of this that I was convicted.

The humiliating position of the married woman, especially the working woman, is admitted by all Suffragists; but I never realised that she was such an abject slave so clearly as when I stood in the Wolverhampton Police Court, side by side with my wife, charged with aiding and abetting her to keep a dog without a license. The only evidence submitted by the prosecution (the police) that I actually did anything was that I presided at two meetings in support of the "No Vote, No Tax" policy of the Women's Freedom League. That I said anything that was not fair comment on the general policy of militancy there was no evidence to show; if, then, on this point I was liable, then all supporters of militancy are equally so. But I do not believe it was on this evidence that I was convicted. No. The dog was at my house, and cared for by my children during my wife's absence. In the eyes of the law, I was lord and master, so that my offence, therefore, was not that I did anything, but rather that I did not do anything.

I did not assert my authority, I did not force my wife into subjection, and however legal the magistrate's decision may have been, it certainly was not just.

It was the spirit of rebellion against injustice displayed by Mrs. Sproson that first won for her my admiration. This admiration is far too deep rooted to be suppressed by the decision of magistrates.

I admire the rebel against injustice, man or woman, because I know that it is to them that all real progress is due. A friend once said to me, when criticising my wife, "But what would happen if all other women did as she is doing?" I replied: "They would get the vote to-morrow"; and he saw it. The pity is that others do not.



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## FÊTE IN SOUTH LONDON.

Members of the Herne Hill and Norwood Branch have been busy lately preparing for a Suffrage festival celebration. On Wednesday and Thursday, June 28 and 29, a sale and garden-party was held at 170, Peckham-rye, S.E. It was opened on Wednesday by our President, Mrs. Despard, and on Thursday by Mrs. Edith How Martyn, A.R.C.S., B.Sc. On Wednesday the chair was taken by Miss Davies, and Mrs. Despard, in an inspiring and characteristic opening address, spoke of the pleasant sense of comradeship which now exists among women, and which the Suffrage movement has done so much to encourage and promote.

One of the chief attractions of the sale was a cake and confectionery stall, upon which were displayed a variety of cakes and sweets which had been made and prepared by Miss Lucy Jenks. A conspicuous object on the stall was a cake beautifully decorated in the green, white, and gold colours of the League, and inscribed with the motto, "Dare to be Free." It was afterwards presented to Mrs. Despard by the members of the branch and was much admired. Another stall bore the inscription, "From Finland," and upon it were displayed a unique collection of various articles of Finnish workmanship. A stall of useful and fancy articles was well patronised by the visitors, also a stall of literature relating to the many aspects of the Suffrage question. Upon another stall were displayed some food reform specialities, such as fruit and nut sandwiches, Wallace cake and confectionery, humanitarian pamphlets, and the preparation "Vitalia."

On Thursday the chair was taken by Mrs. Bertram-Hobson; Mrs. How Martyn gave a very instructive address on the present political situation, and some valuable advice concerning local propaganda work in the near future. We took this opportunity of passing a resolution requesting the local Member of Parliament, Mr. Fred. Hall, to support the Conciliation Bill in all its stages next year.

Songs, music and recitations were given at intervals, and a pleasant social gathering was held in the garden, where refreshments were served.

Our best thanks are due to Miss Lucy Jenks and her sisters Mrs. Wolton, Mrs. Bertram-Hobson, Mrs. McLeod-Kingsnorth, and Mrs. Presbury, for their many and varied activities in connection with this pleasant gathering, and the members and friends who contributed to its success.

On Friday afternoon, on the occasion of the Royal visit to the school children's fête at the Crystal Palace, a successful demonstration was made at 161, Croxted-road, Dulwich.

BARBARA SPENCER.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Secretary—Miss L. M. THOMPSON.

Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMPSON-PRICE.

SATURDAY, July 8, 1911.

### THE PRIVATE MEMBER.

If women are inclined to be a little vain-glorious over the surrender of the Government, it will surely be forgiven them when the history of their struggle is considered. What a memorable fight it has been! Might and power, age-long domination and privilege, obstinacy and prejudice, pitted against simple courage, devotion and woman's ingenuity. No other movement surely has brought forth such originality of attack, such masterly alertness, such spontaneous organisation and self-sacrifice. And there is not one amongst us who would not be prepared—if it were necessary—to fight every battle over again, to meet every thrust and counter-thrust with the same readiness and courage to put our Cause where it stands to-day!

The legitimate pride that we feel in our success must not lead us into a sense of false security however. Until the Royal Assent be given to a Bill enfranchising women the battle is not over: we are still outside the pale of citizenship, individuals who are necessarily at war with an unauthorised governing power. But war is a matter of strategy and tactics, of terms and treaties, as well as of hand-to-hand strife, of attack and defence; and it is the business of those who conduct war to know when to exchange one form of activity for the other.

The Prime Minister's concession of facilities for the Conciliation Bill next year—facilities which are to be full and effective if words convey any meaning at all—brings to a close one phase of our struggle. So far we have been—wisely, because, as the case has proved, effectively—in opposition to the Party which had the power to grant our demand, but refused to do so. On that ground alone our Anti-government policy was based. But with the Cabinet's surrender it can no longer fairly be said that they are blocking the way. Mr. Asquith has promised on their behalf that they will stand on one side, and leave the House of Commons absolutely free to deal with our question, not in some "dim and speculative future," but during the very next Session of Parliament.

The time has come, then, when we may fitly sheathe our more aggressive weapons. We are a militant society, with some of the most striking and effective militant protests in the whole campaign to be placed to our credit, as we proudly know; but we do not exist to exploit militancy when the need for it has ceased—for the time, at any rate. We are facing now a new aspect of war; an aspect that calls for different methods of approach and attack. Instead of the Government and the Prime Minister, the private Member is now the force with which we have to reckon. In his hands lies our fate. How will he act? We have many tried and sincere friends in his ranks we know; we have enemies we know; we have those who have professed much in the past when words were the only proofs demanded of sincerity; friends, foes and faint hearts, they are all forces to be reckoned with. Luckily they all possess in common one exceedingly vulnerable point—they are extremely sensitive to pressure from voters in their own constituencies.

The task that lies plainly before every member of the League, then, is to translate the energy, devotion and enthusiasm that expressed itself in militant protest into political activity. The hands of our friends must be strengthened, the guns of our enemies spiked, the faint-hearted, wavering and undecided turned into vigorous and enthusiastic supporters.

Not a single one of the six hundred and seventy Members of Parliament must be left in doubt as to the

support that our Bill receives in his own constituency. That means work, of course; unceasing work for every Suffragist, both militant and constitutional. There must be no standing still; indeed, there can be no such thing in politics. A cause either advances or goes back; it does not "mark time." Electors who have said that they were in favour of women having votes, but who have hitherto done nothing, must now be induced to support their faith by works. Municipal bodies, organised groups of men and women of all kinds, must be approached and induced to register their desires on the subject.

We must be on the alert too to prevent any wrecking of our hopes by friends who pose as being anxious to give generously now what they have grudgingly withheld for so long. "The real danger to the Conciliation Bill," says *The Nation*, "is not in mere obstruction." It comes from the "natural desire amongst Liberals to make this reform, overdue as it is, generous and nearly final in its scope." But *The Nation* sounds a significant note of warning as regards the danger of such a proceeding. "The experiment of attempting to extend the Bill in this sense would be a safe and proper one, if it were possible under the conditions of Parliamentary warfare to secure an honest vote. But with the hope of wrecking the Bill, its enemies, including even the Tory Anti-Suffragists, have already declared their intention of supporting widening amendments. Their calculation is that they can by these tactics divide the Suffragist forces, and drive into opposition during its final stages the honest but moderate supporters of the Bill." So we must be vigilant as well as zealous. When so-called friends show a desire to join forces with enemies it behoves us to keep a watchful eye on them.

But in spite of this we believe that the majority of the Members of Parliament—like the vast majority of thinking men and women in the country—are anxious to see this question settled, and the bitter quarrel between the women and the Government brought to an end. Well, the issue lies in their hands now. Let them stand firm and be willing to sink minor differences for the sake of the great end in view, and next year will be a year of reconciliation and friendly issues. In the hour of victory we can afford to be magnanimous, as Mr. John Burns said on a recent memorable occasion. "Our friend the enemy" will find we shall be able to afford it too, and with better reason perhaps than the right honourable gentleman's, for our victory will be a real, not a bogus one, our triumph genuine, not a weak flapping of the flag to cover retreat and defeat. But until the hour dawns when we shall enter triumphantly into our own and taste the fruits of our hard-won victory, our motto must be "Work—and yet again, work!"

MARION HOLMES.

### A PENNY AND THREE FARTHING'S AN HOUR.

Miss Elderton writes:—"During my canvassing work I came across a laundry which has a notice to the effect 'That washing brought before noon on Monday will be done in first-class style at half price.' I thought it was worth while to try to find out how the women who really do the work are paid, and the result of my inquiries is:—

1d.	each to iron silk blouses.
1d.	large chair covers.
4d.	a doz. to iron large linen aprons.
1d.	muslin
1d.	tops of bath towels.
4d.	damp woven combinations.

The average wage a woman can earn from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. is about 1s. 9d. a day. Allowing one hour for dinner this works out at 1½d. an hour."

Miss Elderton's example is important, for a personal investigation like this convinces the inquirer more than any number of words can do of the need there is for women to bestir themselves to look into the conditions under which women work. Every such inquiry will but make a Suffragist more ardent and determined.

## THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE, STOCKHOLM, JUNE 12-17, 1911.

The directors of THE VOTE have asked me to give our readers some account of the above Congress, which I attended as the representative delegate for The Women's Freedom League; but when one comes to putting one's ideas of it into cold print, the difficulty of giving an adequate description of this brilliant gathering may be likened to that of describing the appearance of a kaleidoscope.

"Absolutely magnificent and impressive" would be my terms for it. There were 1,200 women present, of whom 800 were delegates, and the company was representative of the finest intellectual and moral womanhood of the civilised world. One felt the honour and joy of seeing and hearing women whose names fill one with pride for one's sex; and if England alone was unable to send her best to be represented there, the reasons for her abstention were very deeply appreciated by all at this great gathering. Everyone knew that the women of England were at close contest in the struggle for their political enfranchisement, and many told me that all other nations look to England as the leader in this matter. Not only does she lead in the force of her arguments and her labours for the cause, but that if England wins few countries can withstand the lead she gives in enfranchising her women. Representatives of Sweden, Germany, and America told me this, and I think there are others who feel the same. But before entering into the details of the Congress discussions it is necessary to say something of the social side so magnificently provided for. One must remember that Stockholm, beautifully built, beautifully situated, and generously provided as it is with great national buildings and numerous means of transit, tending to make one think the city larger than it is, has only a population of 350,000 persons. Into its midst it suddenly brought a gathering of some 1,200 women engaged in a unique struggle for their independence, and representative of some twenty-six countries and organisations; and one can imagine the impression they made on the citizens of Stockholm. It was quite impossible to ignore us even if they had wished to, for we were ubiquitous with our fluttering emblems and eager talk. And here let me do homage at once to the men who gathered like true knights of old to help their women-folk. There were eight of them and they represented six countries where Men's Leagues had been formed.—viz., Great Britain, Holland, France, Germany, Hungary, and America. A special account of their efforts at this Congress will be given later by Dr. Drysdale, so they may be left for the moment with this scant notice.

Our headquarters were at the Grand Hotel—the largest in Stockholm, centrally and beautifully situated by Lake Mälaren, with fine views of the palace and Houses of Parliament on the opposite shore. Here a very large number of the delegates stayed during their visit, and the many fine rooms grouped round the Banquet Hall (our Congress Hall) and the large luncheon pavilion made the social intercourse of delegates easy and pleasant in the not too-frequent intervals between meetings and outings.

Never was there a more kindly and more enthusiastic body of women gathered together; and if many of us, for lack of the German and Swedish language, might have found ourselves somewhat in the cold, we were never allowed to feel so. All of the numerous Swedish helpers spoke fluent English (many of the delegates spoke four or five languages), and I am sure a special vote of thanks is due to all the women of non-English-speaking countries for their industry and patience in learning to speak so well in the three chief languages—English, German, and French. Some of us blushed with shame at our incapacity in this

direction, and I hope we English and Americans will return the compliment our foreign friends have so kindly paid by at least acquiring fluent German and French.

Abundant provision had been made by the hospitable Swedes for our entertainment. On the evening of our arrival a literally grand reception took place, at which some 2,000 persons were present, including a large number of members of the Diplomatic Corps. The rooms were arranged round an enclosed square garden (Continental fashion) and from a sort of minstrels' gallery overlooking this. After many representative speeches had been made, a women's choir from Göteborg gave us some delightful music in a cantata composed by Elfrida Andvée, the conductor. The flowers and lights, the beautiful dresses and animated faces of the guests formed a most brilliant picture, and few anti-Suffragists, male or female, looking on could have honestly declared that Suffragists were for the most part composed of old frumps and discontented old maids with no ideas of beauty or taste.

On Tuesday evening another and equally brilliant gathering took place in the Royal Dramatic Theatre, when about 2,500 persons, chiefly women, were gathered to hear speeches from some of the most representative women of the Franchise movement, and above all to hear the great woman novelist of Sweden, Selma Lagerlöf, who had been presented with the Nobel Prize for Literature some time previously. It was a pleasure to hear her charming voice and look on her earnest face, although, as she spoke in her own language, it was quite impossible to know what she said. In a speech later in the week Mr. Beckman, M.P., told us what a grief it was to him that we could not understand her. "She was offering us," he said, "golden fruit on a silver dish." We shall be able later, however, to get translations of all the speeches.

On the next afternoon we were taken to the Thiel Gallery—the home of a rich banker—where some of the most beautiful pictures of the Swedish artists could be seen. It was a very lovely and artistic house, built high on the banks overlooking Mälaren, where many of the wealthy Swedes have their homes. Near by was the country house of the Crown Prince of Sweden, who, with his wife (Princess Margaret of Connaught), holds a warm place in the hearts of the Swedish people by reason of their simplicity and kindness.

This was a day of festivities, for in the evening, while an open-air meeting was being held—in the Scandinavian tongue only—at one of the public beauty spots of Stockholm—Skansen—the vast majority of the Congress were entertained in another part of the grounds to a display of Swedish national dances in national costumes. The Swedes are famous for their gymnastic feats, and the dances gave full play to the combination of gymnastic and graceful movements.

Afterwards—what was perhaps one of the greatest social pleasures we had at this Congress—followed the singing of national folk song of various European countries, including some English ones, by the famous Sven Scholander and his pretty daughter. It was quite one of the most delightful performances I have ever heard.

The drive round Stockholm, when the good folk of the town had an opportunity of realising the full strength and international character of the Congress, was followed on Friday by a most delightful dinner at Hasselbacken, and on Saturday by a long steamer excursion to and dinner at Saltsjöbaden, a favourite watering-place near Stockholm. This terminated the purely social side of the Congress given by the Stockholm Woman Suffrage Alliance.

It was a triumph of perfect management, courtesy, and true kindness. No one was permitted to feel

lonely or bored, and the entertainment and cuisine were as complete and satisfactory as anyone could desire: It was interesting to note that at all the dinners, both public and private, non-alcoholic wine of a sparkling (aerated) and fruity nature was used. I think if we could get non-alcoholic wine as well made here it would be a good example for women to set men in giving it at their public dinners. Smoking is, as a whole, not indulged in among the Swedish women.

In summing up this section of the Congress, I may say, what I expressed several times to my friends when in Stockholm, that never had I before so much realised the meaning of *noblesse oblige* as among those self-controlled, well-educated, simple, friendly women who acted as hostesses for Stockholm. And if I could personally think of an ideal to follow in mind and manners, I should think of some of those delightful women, one or two of whom it was my pleasure to know fairly intimately during my stay.

We found that many of the members of the Swedish Congress were women who had made their way to the front in all branches of literature, journalism, and commerce. At least two of them had become very wealthy entirely by their own exertions; one as the editor of an educational paper, who had started with no money, and the other, who had been proprietor of the Grand Hotel and had only recently sold it.

Next week I will conclude by giving a *resume* of the principal points dealt with during the Congress. It would be impossible to give more in the space at our disposal, and as the report will be printed, all who wish for details will be able to procure them then.

BESSIE DRYSDALE.

#### WHY WE WANT THE VOTE: THE CHILD OF THE WAGE-EARNING MOTHER.—II.

In our last issue I referred to the power which came to labour through the legalisation of Trade Unions and their being represented in the House of Commons, and I take this as an illustration of our claim to citizenship, and of its value to those amongst us who are the most helpless and unprotected.

I can speak with some right to be heard, for, as a Poor Law Guardian during many years, I was brought very closely in touch with widowed mothers and their little ones.

Our opponents maintain that modern legislation is more careful of the interests of women and children than of the interests of men, and this is frequently urged as a reason against interfering with what they would describe as a right and natural order of things—the man ruling, the woman obeying.

"God is thy law; thou mine," said Milton's gentle Eve in the days of her goodness.

To set against this, let me bring before my readers a scene, typical of many, in which, unwillingly and sometimes indignantly, I took part some years ago.

We are sitting on a relief committee—about a dozen persons gathered together in our Board-room. Many cases have been seen and disposed of, the applicants being, for the most part, aged and infirm persons. Many of them have been seen before, and it is question of renewing, sometimes of increasing, the relief. The one who comes in now is a new case; a tall woman, dressed in deep black, with pale face and dark rings round her heavy eyes.

We gather that she has just lost her husband, and that she is the mother of six children, the youngest two and a half years old, and the eldest eleven. The relieving officer, who, while she watches him closely, is reading out the particulars, states that the husband had been insured for fifteen pounds. This was only a fortnight ago, and he regrets to tell the Guardians that nothing is left of the money.

"Six shillings," corrects the woman. "They told me—"

"Allow the officer to finish," says the chairman, sternly.

The relieving officer reads on. He fears there was considerable extravagance. The funeral alone cost eight pounds.

"And there was black for me and the children. And my sister and her husband, they couldn't have come"—

"But that surely wouldn't have accounted for the whole of the money," from the chairman.

"Mrs. Smith tells me there was money owing," says the relieving officer.

"I fear," adds the chairman, "addressing the applicant, "that you have not realised your heavy responsibility. It is really monstrous to have spent all that money on the funeral."

"Please, sir," says the woman, "there was black for me and the children."

"Black! What nonsense! And your children wanting bread!"

"No, sir; please, sir"—she is weeping now—"my little 'uns haven't wanted bread. It hasn't come to that, thank God!"

"But it will, you foolish woman," puts in another Guardian, "if you continue to be so shiftless. Come now! We have no time to waste. What do you intend to do?" She looks round a little wildly.

A woman Guardian says, gently, "Don't hurry yourself, my friend. We have to think it all out. You have a hard battle to face."

The chairman interposes. "Come, Mrs. Smith, you must pull yourself together. You know you can't expect the parish to keep your children. Six are a handful, of course. Why you poor people have so many passes the wit of man to understand. But they are there. We might—looking round on the Committee and speaking tentatively—take two into the schools—or—do somebody propose something! We can't waste all the morning over one case."

But now the mother is aroused. Her face flushes; there comes a gleam into her eyes. "Take my children away," she cries, "No, sir, I'll work my fingers to the

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bone first. I promised him—my man, when he lay a-dying. 'Martha,' says he, 'don't let the little 'uns go to no charity schools.' He'd been to one himself, poor dear, which I always said gave him a poor constitution. He was an orphan, he was. 'A mother,' says he—"

"My good woman," protests the chairman, "do, for heaven's sake, be reasonable. The Guardians are busy people. They have no time for family-chronicles. I ask again, what do you propose to do?"

"I'll do anything, sir, so long as you don't take the little 'uns away."

"Anything is nothing, my good woman," says another sapient person.

The woman-Guardian interposes again. "Have you done any work out-of-doors? I mean before you were married."

"Yes'm; but it was years ago. No one 'ud know me now. Oh, I'd have worked willing afterwards; but there was the 'ome and his meals, and the little 'uns coming, and—"

"Look here!" from the chairman, "try and see what you can do. Find out your old employers—"

"It wouldn't keep us all, sir. Why, my man's wages coming regular, and never no public - 'ouse nor drink—"

"I am aware what you earn wouldn't keep you all, Mrs. Smith. The Guardians will no doubt grant you some out-relief when they know what your plans are. Meanwhile, you can't live on nothing, of course. Relief in kind for a fortnight; then you can apply again."

A consultation with the relieving officer as to the extent and nature of relief, and the pale, haggard woman dressed in black takes herself and her bewilderment and her one stout resolve not to let the little 'uns be brought up in a "charity-school" out of the Board-room. The chairman sighs, "Thank goodness, that is over." And a woman-Guardian says aloud, "Woman's place is the home."

The scene may seem strange to the thoughtful. It is of constant recurrence. If that woman is fortunate she will be able to earn ten shillings a week. The Guardians will grant her one shilling or one shilling and sixpence for each child. Take the latter sum, which was generally allowed in Lambeth. It would mean an income of nineteen shillings a week. Out of that, for she would be employed all day, she would have to pay for the smaller children to be minded; washing, mending, cooking, providing—all necessary in a home where six children have to be cared for—would occupy the greater part of some of her nights, her Sundays, and an occasional half-day. Little wonder that she grows more and more haggard and careworn as the weeks and months go by. And this is male administration! Such is the Poor Law that made, added to, amended by men, has grown to such momentous proportions that the ordinary person cannot fathom its mysteries!

I hope that one of the first reforms the woman-citizen will press for will be a legal recognition of the long-forgotten truth that motherhood—the bearing and rearing of children—is a work that should be properly arranged for and rewarded.

Later I may follow up some of these little ones—the children of wage-earning mothers. I may show how the State cares for them, and what might be done were their rights of citizenship and those of their mothers fitly and justly recognised.

C. DESPARD.

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## BRANCH NOTES.

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

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

Mrs. Tanner and Mr. R. Pott kindly came to speak for us at the Tram Terminus last Monday. A good-sized crowd assembled and remained for nearly two hours listening to their instructive and interesting speeches. Twenty-six copies of THE VOTE were sold and a collection taken. We also had a donation from a colonial who was most interested, and has promised to come again. J. F.

**Croydon.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. E. Terry, 9, Moreland-avenue, Croydon. Office: No. 3, The Arcade, High-street.

Next sewing meeting will be held at the office on Friday, July 7. On June 30 we had the pleasure of a visit from Mrs. How Martyn, who spoke upon Tax Resistance, and explained Mrs. Sproson's refusal to pay her dog tax, and the undue and seemingly vindictive sentence of five weeks' imprisonment that she is now undergoing. The penny pamphlets, that are slightly soiled by being placed in the window, may be had at the reduced price of two for 1½d., and should be used for propaganda purposes.—E. T.

**Hackney.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss P. LE CROISSETTE, 238, Navarino Mansions, Dalston, N.E.

Miss Gattridge spoke last Sunday to a large and interested crowd in Victoria Park. At the conclusion many questions were submitted to the speaker, and every copy of THE VOTE was sold. Will branch members of Hackney please concentrate on the "Garden Meeting" at 23, Terrace-road, South Hackney, on July 13, and do all in their power to fill Mrs. Catmur's garden on this date? Tea, &c., will be served from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. The speakers will be Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Mustard. It is hoped that each member will make a contribution—however small—to the cake and candy-stall, or to the needlework stall, as we hope to hand over a substantial sum to our treasurer as a result of the meeting. An important branch meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 8 p.m.

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

On Sunday, July 16, a demonstration in support of the Conciliation Bill will be held in Brockwell Park at 3 p.m., in which the Women's Freedom League, the local W.S.P.U., and the Brixton branch of the Independent Labour Party will take part. We hope all members will attend this meeting if possible. The next members' meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 12, at 140, Rosendale-road, West Dulwich, at 3 p.m.

**Mid-London.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.

At our special members' meeting to be held at 1, Robert-street on Tuesday, July 11, at 8 p.m., there will be several matters to discuss in addition to the business already notified by circular letter, one of them being the date and place suitable for the "At Home" which the N.E.C. suggest that we, as one of the London branches, should hold in the autumn. I hope you will all make a point of attending, if possible.

Many thanks to those who have kindly contributed towards the expenses of the Sunday meetings in Hyde Park. Any donations, however small, will be gratefully accepted.

Mrs. Despard is going to speak again on June 9, and I hope some members of our branch will be able to be present.—E. G. T.

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

Members are especially asked to attend the meeting called for July 18 to consider whether the N.E.C. should have power to suspend the Anti-Government policy at any particular bye-election. Mrs. Cashmore, of 11, Rookwood-road, Clapton Common, has kindly promised to be our hostess, and the proceedings will begin at 3.30 p.m. Miss Turner will be our principal speaker.

## SOUTH OF ENGLAND.

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

A very successful and most interesting debate was held at the Hove Brotherhood Hall in connection with the Hove Wesleyan Church. The Rev. E. J. B. Kirtlan was in the chair, Miss Hare acting as Secretary of the Hove Branch of the W.F.L. took the affirmative in "Should Women Have the Vote?" and made an eloquent address sustained at a high level of thought. The negative was taken by Mr. Twitchett, the Secretary of the Brotherhood. Several members of the audience took part in the discussion following, and the affirmative was carried by a large majority. A special members' meeting will be held on July 10 to discuss an important question. Further particulars will be sent to each member. As this is the last meeting before the holidays, every member is asked to make a particular effort to be present.—E. M. W.

**Portsmouth and Gosport.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. WHETTON, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.

An important branch meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11, at 7 p.m., at 6, Clarence-view. Mrs. Hodder, 338 Fratton-road, has undertaken to store the goods for the Jumble

Sale; so will members please send whatever they can spare to that address? The manager of the South Parade Pier has kindly given me permission to send THE VOTE weekly to the Reading-room on the Pier. Gratefully acknowledged:—To Procession expenses, Mrs. Hay-Shaw (Mrs. Donald Shaw), 5s.

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

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

The Women's Freedom Matinée at the Hippodrome last Thursday was very successful. Two plays, by Mrs. Isabel Tippett, were produced, called "In Search of Adventure" and "To Fit the Case." The artistes were Miss Maud Downing, Mrs. Hossack, Miss Beatrice Pearce, Mr. Hockey, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Block, and to them our thanks are due for the splendid way in which they sustained their parts. Madame Baird kindly arranged for some pretty dancing. "True Womanhood" will be shown at the Picture House shortly, and all Suffragettes are urged to go and see the pictures, which are extremely good. Will members and friends remember the working party, which is held every Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock? Funds are wanted for the Organising Fund; we cannot arrange meetings without money, and the country districts are calling for help.

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

Our summer excursions to the seaside began on Saturday, when the organiser and some members of the Manchester Branch visited New Brighton. A large and interesting meeting took place, even those who questioned most persistently agreeing that women householders should have the vote. Next week we shall visit Rhyl, starting early on Saturday morning. Will any members who can spare a day volunteer help? Collectors, chairman and "Vote" sellers are needed. The fare is 3s. 9d. The excursions will continue during the summer, and any members in the district who are spending their holidays in North Wales or the Lancashire watering-places, and are willing to help, are asked to send their names to me as soon as possible. A suggestion of a cycle corps for the summer months comes from a member of the Sale Branch. Will those who are interested in this scheme please communicate with me as soon as possible?

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

**Swansea.**—Hon. Organising Secretary: Miss H. DAVIES, B.A., Training College; Hon. Corr. Secretary: Miss PHIPPS, B.A., 5, Grosvenor-road, Sketty, S.O. Glam.

At the branch meeting held at Dynevor-place on June 28 a debate took place between the members of our branch and the Women's Labour League. The subject was: "That the Enfranchisement of Women should take Precedence of Other Social Reforms." The affirmative was taken by Miss Beatrice Davies and Miss Phipps, the negative by Miss Annie Jones and Mrs. Alderman David Williams. The debate ultimately resolved itself into the question of Adult Suffrage versus the Conciliation Bill, and we had once more to refute the statement that our Bill proposes to give votes chiefly to propertied women. The proposition was carried.

On July 13 we hope to give an open-air entertainment in the College grounds, by the kind permission of Principal Salmon. There will be Morris dancing, fancy skipping, and a dramatic sketch by Miss M. Holmes. The time will be announced next week.

## SCOTTISH NOTES.

**Glasgow:** Suffrage Centre, 502, SAUCHIEHALL-STREET. Hon. Secretary: MISS MINA STEVEN. Hon. Treasurer: MISS JANET L. BUNTEN.

Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.

**Dundee.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss CLUNAS, 1, Blackness-crescent.

A specially convened meeting of the branch was held on Thursday, Miss Husband (president) in the chair, when the question submitted by the N.E.C. was discussed. By a majority members answered it in the affirmative. Mrs. Allan then gave an account of the procession of June 17, touching on many points not mentioned in the newspapers. During July there will be no indoor or open-air meetings, but members on holiday in the West are reminded of the Summer Centre at Rothesay.—L. CLUNAS.

## THE FIRST UNIVERSAL RACES CONGRESS.

London is to be congratulated on the honour of receiving the first Universal Races Congress, to be held at the Imperial Institute from July 26 to 29. The aim of the Congress is to discuss the general relations subsisting between Eastern and Western peoples with a view to encouraging a fuller understanding, friendly feelings, and a heartier co-operation. The Congress is supported by representatives of fifty countries, Prime Ministers, Presidents of Parliament, and eminent scientists. There will be morning and afternoon sessions; the papers, previously circulated to members, will be taken as read, and discussed without delay. The president is Lord Weardale; the hon. general secretary, Mr. G. Spiller, 63, South-hill-park, Hampstead, who will gladly send particulars to all interested.

## OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**The Church League for Woman's Suffrage.**—President: THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN. Office: 1, St. Mark's-crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

An afternoon drawing-room meeting will be held at The Corner, Bushey, by kind permission of Mrs. Erskine Murray, on July 17. Speakers: Mrs. Wynne Nevinston and the Rev. C. Hinscliff. On July 19 there will be a public meeting at Worcester to inaugurate the Worcester branch. Subscriptions for the work at the Church Congress are much needed. Collecting cards should now be sent in.

The League is prepared to send speakers to parochial gatherings. Mrs. Mumford, founder of the League of Prayer, has arranged a series of six Suffrage addresses to be given at the Mothers' Meetings held by the ladies of St. Mary's Settlement, Plaistow.

## Women's Tax Resistance League.

On Tuesday last Mrs. Kineton Parkes addressed the members of the Brighton and Hove Suffrage Society, and also delegates from Worthing and Shoreham, on the subject of "Tax Resistance" in the Hove Town Hall. Miss Merrifield presided, and there was a long and animated debate at the conclusion of the lecture, led by Colonel-Kensington, as to whether the National Union should or should not adopt the policy of tax resistance. A meeting was held on Wednesday evening in the drawing-room at Warren House, Guildford, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Baker, and the following day Mrs. Kineton Parkes spoke at a garden party at Farnham.

The last of these meetings was held on Friday at Tunbridge Wells at the rooms of the Suffrage Society and presided over by Mrs. Lelachur. Mrs. Kineton Parkes' address was followed by a most animated and instructive discussion led by Madame Sarah Grand.

The council meetings to decide this question will be held at Edinburgh next week.

On Wednesday, June 28, also, a most successful protest against taxation without representation was made by Mrs. Muir, of Broadstairs, whose goods were sold at the Auction Rooms, 120, High-street, Margate. The protest was conducted by Mrs. Juson Keer; and Miss Ethel Fennings, of the W.F.L., went down to speak. The auctioneer, Mr. Holness, was most courteous, and not only allowed Mrs. Muir to explain in a few words why she resisted taxation, but also gave permission to hold a meeting in his rooms after the sale was over. Prior to the sale a well-attended meeting was held in Cecil-square, and Miss Fennings sold some copies of THE VOTE.

## Actresses' Franchise League.

Another East-end meeting has been arranged to take place in the Workman's Hall, Stratford, E., on Friday, July 14, at 8 p.m. Besides speeches by Miss May Whitty (Mrs. Ben Webster), Mr. George Lansbury, M.P., and Mrs. Drummond, an entertainment consisting of Suffrage songs, recitations and the play *An Englishwoman's Home* will be given. Admission free. Those wishing to help by stewarding, &c., in the hall should communicate with the organising secretary.

## Welsh Suffrage Union.

The inaugural meeting of the Welsh Suffrage Union will be held at 69, Wimpole-street, W., by invitation of Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, on Monday next, July 10, at 5.30 o'clock. All Welsh women of every shade of opinion are cordially invited to attend. For particulars apply to Mrs. Davies, 57, Racton-road, Fulham, S.W.

**The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.**—Hon. Secretary: MISS KENDALL, 22, Wilberforce-road, Finsbury Park, N. Hon. Treasurer: MISS MONICA WHATELY, 75, Harcourt-terrace, The Boltons, London, S.W.

All Catholic men and women are invited to join this Society. Minimum annual subscription, 1s. Friends and sympathisers are asked to a drawing-room meeting at 12, Mornington-avenue-mansions, West Kensington, by kind permission of Miss D. Sullivan, on Thursday, July 6, 3 to 5 p.m. Speaker, Mr. Joseph Clayton. Badges are now on sale, price 2d. Pamphlets, "The Views of Cardinal Moran and the late Cardinal Vaughan on Woman Suffrage," published by N.U.W.S.S. Price 1d.

**Free Church League for Woman Suffrage.**—President: DR. CLIFFORD; Hon. Corr. Secretary: MISS HATTY BAKER, 25, Hartington-villas, Hove.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, 4, Cholmeley Park, Highgate, N., who till the autumn are acting as Hon. Organising Secretaries, will be glad to help in sending speakers for meetings either in or out of London. Members and sympathisers are asked during the summer to arrange garden meetings, street-corner meetings, and in their holidays at the seaside or in the country. Suffragists connected with Free Churches should suggest the inclusion of some Suffrage question in the syllabus of Literary Societies, Brotherhoods, Women's Meetings, &c. Secretaries of such will be communicated with directly if name and address are sent.

Mrs. Holman, 55, Talbot-road, Highgate, N., Hon. Treasurer, will be glad to receive names of new members with subscriptions.

Of the two police-women recently appointed in Christiania, Norway, one has already entered upon her studies in the police school. During her two months' course she will receive instruction in such laws as the police especially need to know, in general police duties, in writing reports, &c. After that she will begin active service in the social purity department of the force.



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Skirts.	Carpets.
Children's Dresses.	Linoleum.
Hosiery.	Bedsteads.
Gloves.	Bedding.
Millinery.	Cutlery.
Flowers.	Kitchen
Feathers.	Requisites.
Boots and Shoes.	China and Glass.
Lace and Ribbons.	Silver Goods.
Trimmings.	Bazaar.
Furs & Umbrellas.	Toys and Outdoor Games.
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	Gent's Outfitting.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

## LONDON.



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

- Thurs., July 6.**—Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.  
Clapham Branch, Lecture Room, Battersea Free Library, Lavender Hill. Meeting: Branch members, 7.30 p.m.; general public, 8.15 p.m. Miss Tite.
- Fri., July 7.**—1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 7 p.m. London Branches' Council.
- Sun., July 9.**—Hyde Park, noon. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Mustard. *Chair:* Miss Henderson.
- Mon., July 10.**—Northampton House, Highbury, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.  
Highbury, 8 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.  
Crystal Palace, Tram Terminus, 8 p.m. Miss Cecile Law.  
Warwick-street, S.W., 7.30 p.m. Miss Guttridge, B.Sc.
- Tues., July 11.**—8 p.m., at 1, Robert-street. Special meeting of Mid-London Branch members.
- Wed., July 12.**—Herne Hill Branch members' meeting, 3 p.m., 140, Rosendale-road, Dulwich.  
"GARDENIA" meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard on "Clinics and Open-air Schools."
- Thurs., July 13.**—Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m. Miss Irene Miller.
- Caxton Hall, 8 p.m. Joint Demonstration against Insurance Bill.** Miss Eva Gore-Booth, Mrs. How Martyn, Earl of Lytton, &c.
- Fri., July 14.**—Kensington Branch, special meeting for members of Kensington Branch, 8 p.m., at 53, Drayton-gardens (by kind permission of Miss Tite).
- Sun., July 16.**—Hyde Park, noon.  
Brockwell Park, 3 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Tanner.
- Mon., July 17.**—Crystal Palace, Tram Terminus, 8 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.
- Tues., July 18.**—Drawing-room meeting, Stamford Hill, 3 p.m. Miss Madge Turner.
- Wed., July 19.**—"Gardenia" meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. How Martyn on "The Economic Status of Married Women."
- Fri., July 21.**—1, Robert-street. National Executive Committee, 2.30 p.m.
- Sat., July 22.**—1, Robert-street. National Executive Committee, 10.30 a.m.
- Sun., July 30.**—Brockwell Park, 3 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Nevinson.

## PROVINCES.

- Wed., July 19.**—Garden meeting, Easebourne Vicarage, 3 p.m. (West Sussex Branch). Miss Alison Neilans.  
Evening meeting, Easebourne Village, 8 p.m. Miss Alison Neilans.

## ECHOES OF THE 'SIXTIES.

Extract from a speech by Dr. Dale at Birmingham on March 22, 1867:—"I will tell you why I think the franchise to be a popular or democratic right. Our theory of representation is that it is intended to afford by peaceful and constitutional means a secure protection to the interests of all classes of the community. If a tax is to be levied, they have a right to some security that it shall be equitably levied. If a law is to be passed, they have a right to some security that that law shall not injuriously affect their interests. The franchise is intended to afford the people a peaceful and legal control over the action of the legislature and the executive; and I contend that the people—all classes of the people—have a clear right to this control, and that therefore the franchise is not simply a privileged granted by the legislature, but a necessary check on the legislature imposed by the people. There is always an ultimate check both on the crimes and on the follies of Governments. Self-defence is one of man's natural rights, and if we cannot protect our interests in one way we must do it in another. The franchise is a peaceful and harmless method of protecting those interests. The franchise touches no man's life—destroys no man's property; and if you prevent four-fifths of the people from asking for a legal influence in the public life and action of the country, you compel them to resort to other means of self-protection. Deny the people the franchise, and the right of revolution still remains. Deny the people the franchise, and they are driven to secret conspiracy, or to a display of their overwhelming physical force. Those who would deny the people the franchise must take their choice between the hustings and the barricade. If they take from the people the peaceful weapon by which they desire to

protect their interests, they still leave to the people, be it remembered, the pike and the rifle. I say this, not because I think that we are near a time when a resort to force will be necessary, but because I think that in times of peace we should effect such constitutional changes as shall render political excitement needless in times of public disaster."

## MEETING AT THE "GARDENIA."

On Wednesday, June 28, a meeting was held at the Gardenia Restaurant to discuss the National Insurance Bill. Mrs. Pember Reeves, whose speech is reported elsewhere, opened the discussion dealing with many important aspects of the Bill, and more especially with such clauses as affect women particularly. After an interval for questions, the meeting was thrown open for discussion, in which many members took part. Mrs. How Martyn presided over a full audience, and one of the most interesting of the interesting series of "Gardenia" meetings. On July 5 Miss Nina Boyle will speak, and on July 12 Mrs. Despard will take for her subject, "Clinics and Open-air Schools."

M. T.

MISS GRACE LEAHY writes: "In the 'Diary of Government' it is reported that the Government has conferred the honour upon her of selecting Donna Carolina Michaelis da Vasconcedos to the post of Professor in Ordinary of the Society of Philologia Germanica of the Universities of Lisbon and Coimbra. This post, the first of such to be conferred upon a woman, has been given to the illustrious writer in recognition of the services she has given to the Portuguese language by her writings, especially such works as the review of Sa di Miranda and her many translations of Portuguese writings into German."

In America the majority of girls are given a better education than boys. They go to school longer, and they read more after they are out of school than young men do. There are also millions of middle-aged women banded together in all sorts of study clubs all over the country, and it is folly to claim that these women are not as well qualified to understand any political question as their husbands are.—*Dorothy Dix* in "*San Francisco Examiner*."

MISS MOLLY SPICER, twenty-three years of age, has been appointed deputy sheriff of Dutchess County, New York, by the Sheriff of Poughkeepsie. She is said to be the first woman deputy in New York State outside of the Federal service. Miss Spicer is charged with an important mission in finding proper homes for children of dissolute parents, and her appointment as deputy will greatly facilitate the discharge of her duties.—"*The Woman's Journal*."

MRS. BADIAH, daughter of Hafni Bey Nasif, vice-president of the Tantah Tribunals, prepared a discourse on Moslem Women, which was read for her at the recent Moslem Congress at Heliopolis, Egypt. Mrs. Badiah is well-known among natives for her enlightened views and her learning.

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