

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

MONTHLY PAPER.

OFFICE: 40, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

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No. 4.

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JANUARY, 1910.

! SPECIAL AND URGENT !

See Notice of Election Literature below.

REMEMBER

QUEEN'S HALL MEETING,
FEBRUARY 22nd.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We earnestly hope that our members will lose no opportunity of pressing our cause on the electors in their various neighbourhoods. Literature of various kinds may be obtained from 40, Museum Street. Those who cannot themselves distribute will serve the cause by buying handbills (see notice below) and getting them distributed for a small sum by boys at the entrance to railway stations, &c.

ESPECIALLY they are asked to notice the list of candidates' replies to our circular, to write to their candidates, study their election addresses, and ask them questions at meetings. Especially is this incumbent on men of position in their locality, from whom a question has especial weight. The Committee urges every member to make a point of this important method.

In all cases the question should be sent in advance in writing to the chairman or the candidate. Members are further advised to give notice to the Hon. Sec., at Museum Street, who will try to get other members to accompany them, with a view to getting the question thrashed out.

All the members should wear the badge, and should make a special point of conforming in all respects as indicated to the normal rules of public meeting. No candidate can properly refuse to answer a local elector who puts a reasonable question at his meetings.

GENERAL ELECTION.

CANDIDATES' REPLIES.

As readers are aware, the Committee have addressed the following questions to all candidates who are announced as standing at the forthcoming General Election:—

I. Will you, if elected, vote in favour of a Bill granting the Parliamentary Franchise to women on the same terms as it is, or

may be, granted to men, whether such measure is introduced by the Government or by a private member?

II. Are you prepared to give the question a prominent place in your election address and at your meetings?

III. Will you do your best to induce your party to adopt a measure for the enfranchisement of women?

Up to December 29th about 200 replies had been received. Of these a small number state that no answers on any questions will be made to any but constituents. A few men even state that they have as yet formed no opinion on the question, while two or three are so exceedingly vague that no one at Museum Street has ventured to deduce their significance.

Subjoined will be found two lists of replies:—A, those which are directly in the affirmative on all three questions; B, those which are equally clearly in the negative; and C, those which are not altogether satisfactory, though their tendency is distinctly favourable. Among these are various candidates who, while clear on the principle, refuse to apply it to one or other franchise system: those marked (a) are Adult Suffragists.

It should be noted that all candidates have been rigorously excluded from Class A who have made the least reservation in the case of any question. The only exception is that of the Hon. Geoffrey Howard, whose letter, representing as it does a distinct advance upon much that he has said or appeared to say in the past, is printed in these columns.

In several other cases it is only a strict adherence to the letter of the law which has excluded from Class A men whose replies are practically satisfactory.

A.—The following candidates have replied to all three questions in the affirmative unconditionally:—

Wm. C. Anderson (Lab., Hyde, Cheshire).

E. Assinder (U., Eccles).

Lyon Blease, LL.B.* (Lib., Chorley).

J. Bliss (Lib., North Lonsdale).

G. J. Bentham (Lib., Gainsborough, Lincs.).

R. Cameron (Lib., Houghton-le-Springs).

H. G. Chancellor* (Lib., Haggerston).

C. A. V. Conybeare* (Lib., Horncastle).

C. H. Corbett (Lib., North Sussex).

T. Hart Davies (Lib., North Hackney).

Sir W. H. Davies (Lib., S. Bristol).

W. H. Dickinson* (Lib., North St. Pancras).

C. Duncan (Lab., Barrow-in-Furness).

George Elliot, K.C. (U., South Beds.).

H. Elverston (Lib., Gateshead).

Surgeon-General Evatt (Lib., Brighton) (prefers Adult Suffrage).

H. S. Foster (U., Lowestoft).

S. H. Goldsmid (U., Camberwell).

A. Good (Lab., Cardiff).

A. W. Groser (U., Barnsley, Yorks.).

J. G. Hancock (Lab., Mansfield, Notts.).

J. Henniker Heaton (U., Canterbury).

F. H. Henlé (Lib., Paddington).

F. G. Howard (Lib., Hampstead).
 Hon. Geoffrey Howard, M.P. (Lib., Eskdale) (see letter).
 Leif Jones (Lib., Westmorland, Appleby).
 Frank L. Joseph (Lib., Walton).
 Sir George Kemp (Lib., N.W. Manchester).
 J. G. Kipling (Lib., Clapham).
 R. T. Lang (Lib., E. Kent).
 J. Lansbury (Lab., Bow and Bromley).
 Sir Wilfrid Lawson (Lib., Cocker-mouth).
 Dr. Leach (Lib., Colne Valley).
 John Lea (Lib., East Toxteth, Liverpool).
 J. T. T. Lincoln (Lib., Darlington).
 A. M. S. Methuen (Lib., Guildford).
 Sir Chas. McLaren (Lib., Bosworth).
 H. K. Newton (U., N.E. Essex or Harwich).
 Wm. Pickles (Lab., Holmfirth).
 Sir Jas. Rankin (U., Leominster).
 Sir J. F. L. Rolleston (U., Hertford).
 Arnold S. Rowntree (Lib., York City) (prefers Adult Suffrage).
 Jas. Sexton (Lab., West Toxteth, Liverpool).
 A. Sharp (Lab., Whitehaven).
 Edward Shortt (Lib., Newcastle-upon-Tyne).
 Sir A. Spicer (Lib., Central Hackney).
 Philip Snowden (Lab., Blackburn).
 A. Stanley (Lab., N. W. Staffs.).
 J. E. Sutton (Lab., E. Manchester).
 L. A. Symmons* (Lib., Epping).
 H. Twist (Lab., Wigan).
 Sir W. H. Vaudrey (U., N.E. Manchester).
 J. Walton (Lib., Barnsley).
 Right Hon. Lord Wolmer (U., Newton, Lancs.).
 H. Drysdale Woodcock (Lib., Canterbury).
 Sir J. H. Yoxall (Lib., W. Nottingham).

Total, 56 (Liberal 33, Unionist 11, Labour 12).

B.—The following candidates have either answered every question individually in the negative, or have by a letter signified that they do not support our cause:—

H. L. Brassey (U., N. Hants).
 Capt. R. B. Brassey (U., N. Oxon.).
 N. Smith Carrington (U., Loughborough).
 Sir W. Chaytor (U., Bishop Auckland).
 Lord Alwyn Compton (U., Brentford).
 Norman Craig (U., Isle of Thanet).
 J. Spender Clay (U., Tonbridge).
 Hon. Aubrey Herbert (U., S. Somerset or Wells).
 Rowland Hunt (Lib., Ludlow).
 Robert Long (U., W. Wilts or Westbury).
 J. H. Morison-Kirkwood (U., S.E. Essex).
 Joseph Martin (Lib., E. St. Pancras).
 B. Eyres-Monsell (U., Evesham).
 Col. H. A. Pakenham (U., St. Pancras).
 W. Frank Perkins (U., New Forest).
 Col. Perowne (U., South Molton).
 E. Pretymann (U., Mid-Essex).
 Lord Ronaldshay (U., Hornsey).
 S. Timmis (U., S.W. Riding, Yorkshire).
 Col. R. Williams (U., Dorchester).

Total, 20 (18 Unionist, 2 Liberal).

C.—Several of the following differ from those in Class A in very minor details, and, replying by letter, have, perhaps inadvertently, failed to answer all three questions specifically:—

Major W. A. Adam (U., Woolwich).
 R. Wallace Atkins (Lib., Mid-Bucks).
 A. C. Barrington (Lab., Carlisle).
 Alfred Bigland (U., Birkenhead).
 Sir John Brigg (Lib., Keighley).
 Herbert Burrows (Soc., Haggerston). (a)
 E. H. Carlile (U., Mid-Herts).
 Capt. A. Boyd-Carpenter (U., Colne Valley).
 Sir C. W. Cayzer (U., Monmouth).
 Dr. G. Coates (U., Lichfield).

* Members M.L.W.S. (a) Adult Suffrage.

George Cave, K.C. (U., Kingston).
 D. Dalziel (U., Brixton).
 Sir Charles Dilke (Lib., Forest of Deane). (a)
 L. Worthington Evans (U., Colchester).
 Edward Goulding (U., Worcester).
 Lord Graham (U., Eye).
 E. J. Horniman (Lib., Chelsea).
 T. E. Hickman (U., S. Wolverhampton).
 Harold C. Hicks (Lib., Bridgwater).
 J. Hilton (U., Oldham).
 H. M. Hyndman (Lab., Burnley). (a)
 Dan Irving (Lab., Accrington). (a)
 Fred. Kelley (Blackpool).
 Sir Henry Kimber (U., Wandsworth).
 G. Locker-Lampson (U., Salisbury).
 Sir F. Lely (Lib., Sevenoaks).
 Dr. J. Elsdale Molson (U., Bethnal Green).
 J. R. Pretymann Newman (U., Enfield).
 Fred. Ogden (U., Pudsey).
 Mervyn Peel (U., E. Carmarthenshire).
 Sir W. R. Plummer (U., Newcastle-on-Tyne).
 A. Rendall (Lib., South Gloucestershire).
 R. F. Roundell (Lib., Skipton).
 J. Sandy (Lib., South Hants.). (a)
 D. J. Shackleton (Lab., Clitheroe). (a)
 F. Cuthbert Smith (U., Leigh, Lancs.).
 John W. Spear (U., Tavistock).
 B. S. Straus (Lib., Mile End).
 Theo. C. Taylor (Lib., Radcliffe-cum-Farnworth).
 E. Lewis Thomas, K.C. (Lib., Hereford).
 Geo. A. Touche (U., N. Islington).
 J. W. H. Thompson (Lib., E. Somerset). (a)
 Will Thorne (Lab., West Ham). (a)
 Harry C. W. Verney (Lib., Wilton).
 Capt. Leslie Wilson (U., Poplar).

AMONG a number of interesting letters accompanying replies is one from the Hon. Geoffrey Howard, M.P., whose sympathies with Adult Suffrage are well known. He says, however:—

“DEAR MR. MITCHELL,—As you probably know, I advocate a more democratic solution than the old limited Bill which your first question indicates. But should such a measure be brought in by some other member I should most certainly give it my support.—Yours faithfully,
 GEOFFREY HOWARD.
 Naworth Castle, Carlisle,
 December 11th, 1909.

**QUEEN'S HALL MEETING,
 FEBRUARY 22nd.**

FULL details of the Queen's Hall Meeting will be given in the February number. As already announced we hope to have a speech from the Earl of Lytton; among other speakers will be the Rev. Hugh B. Chapman, of the Royal Chapel of the Savoy.

You are specially asked to book your tickets in advance. The prices are 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., all except the last being numbered and reserved. They will be ready early in January. The sale of tickets is greatly expedited by the keen co-operation of members, who are asked to take them on sale or return. Leaflets, window bills, and posters for distribution or display, will be ready as soon as all the speakers are secured.

ELECTION LITERATURE.

THE attention of members and friends is specially called to the importance of the General Election as an opportunity for spreading literature on Women's Suffrage. The Literature Secretary will be glad if members will book orders at once for any of the following publications. Special rates are quoted for large quantities:—

I. Speeches—Queen's Hall, 1907	3d.
II. Speeches—Queen's Hall, 1909	3d.
III. "Why Men should help Women in their Claim for Enfranchisement"	1d.
IV. List of Eminent Men in support of Women's Suffrage (Revised and Enlarged Edition) 1d.	
Various Leaflets	2s. 6d. per 100.
The Monthly Paper	1d.
Men's League Badges	1d.

Literature Sec., A. I. G. JAYNE.

SPECIAL FOR THIS ELECTION.

IN order to assist members in informing local political association as to their views on Women's Suffrage, we have prepared cards in the following form:—

To Canvassers.

It is useless to call here till your Party puts

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

on its Programme.

MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,
 HEADQUARTERS:
 40, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

(Signed).....

THERE are three ways of using this card:—(1) Pin it on the front door of your house. (2) Cause it to be shown to every canvasser who calls. (3) Send it with name and address to the local agent of each candidate. With a view to the last, the cards are in post-card form, prepared for addressing and stamping.

THESE cards—of which 1,500 have already been used by the Sussex Men's League (affiliated to M.L.W.S.)—may be obtained at the rate of 5 for 1d., or 100 for 1s. 3d.

ELECTION LEAFLET.

WE have also a leaflet specially designed to show the absurdity of the alleged "appeal to the country" while not a single woman has a vote. The handbill is carefully displayed to bring out the contradiction in bold relief.

It may be obtained at 3s. per 1,000. The same matter is also to be had as a small window bill; price on application.

Please order at once to ensure delivery in time!

DONATIONS DURING DECEMBER.

WE would remind members that donations at this particular moment are more than usually necessary—indeed, imperative—if the useful work of the League is not to be curtailed. We hope, therefore, that contributions will come in on a large scale to meet the very many calls that will be made during the General Election.

		GOLDFINCH BATE } Hon. Treasurers.	
		H. G. CHANCELLOR }	
		£	s. d.
Capt. Gonne		1	10 6
Dr. Macpherson		0	2 6
Oswald Powell		0	5 0
Laurence Housman (Election Fund)		0	10 0
Reginald Wyatt		0	10 0
A. W. Pollard		1	1 0

	£	s.	d.
K. G. Jayne (Election Fund)	0	10	0
H. B. Silver	0	5	0
W. Sleight	0	10	6
Goldfinch Bate	2	2	0
J. Malcolm Mitchell	0	10	6

**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CANDIDATE AT
 ROSSENDALE.**

MR. A. K. BULLEY, the only Women's Suffrage Candidate, made his first speech in the Rossendale constituency on Tuesday, December 21st, in the Mechanics' Hall, Bacup. Mr. Bulley stands on behalf of the Lancashire and Cheshire Women's Textile and Other Workers Representation Committee, the secretaries of which are Miss Esther Roper and Miss Eva Gore-Booth. He is opposing the sitting member, Mr. Lewis Harcourt (First Commissioner of Works), and the Unionist candidate, Mr. Keby-Fletcher, who was defeated by Mr. Harcourt in January, 1906, by 2,200 votes. He is a member of the Men's League.

Mr. Bulley is a well-known Liverpool cotton-broker. He stands primarily for Women's Suffrage, but has very properly further explained to the electors his position in general politics, namely that he is a Socialist.

The chair was taken by Mr. Ben Cowgill, President of the local Trade Council, and there was a crowded attendance predominantly of men. Owing to the terrible weather Mr. Bulley did not arrive in time, and the meeting was opened by Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, who had originally hoped himself to stand for the division. Speaking as a Liberal, he strongly urged the electors not to vote for Mr. Harcourt, whose opposition to Women's Suffrage shows him to be false to the elementary principles of his political faith, but to devote their powers on this occasion to the cause of women, who had throughout their own struggles stood by them loyally and courageously. How could they tolerate an "appeal to the people" which entirely ignored their fellow workers? He wished them to understand that his own withdrawal was due to purely business reasons, and that he entirely concurred in the policy of seeking to unseat Mr. Harcourt.

Mr. Bulley subsequently gave an able, comprehensive, and convincing speech on the need for women's enfranchisement. He went over the familiar ground with that lucidity of exposition which comes from expert knowledge of economic problems, and a deep-seated enthusiasm for justice and equality. The audience, composed as it was of Lancashire folk, who are not given to precipitate enthusiasm and not prone to fling their arms round the first person who addresses them, listened with marked attention, and on many occasions broke into genuine applause such as no one who knows the North could fail to understand. The absolute cogency of Mr. Bulley's reasoned exposition made a deep impression upon them, and every sign augurs well for a vigorous campaign.

Miss Roper and Miss Gore-Booth also spoke. All who recognize the importance of this candidature are asked to contribute to the election funds c/o Miss Roper, 5, John Dalton Street, Manchester. Any who can speak in the constituency, or help in other ways, should send in their names to Miss Roper without delay.

BRANCH NEWS.

SUSSEX MEN'S LEAGUE (AFFILIATED SOCIETY).

WE have stewarded meetings as usual, and are making preparations for forming branches in all the big towns of Sussex. The following account of our deputation to Mr. Morres Nickalls, one of the prospective candidates (Lib.) for Brighton, is taken from a local paper:—

... The questions put to Mr. Nickalls by Mr. H. Milner Black, who introduced the deputation, were:—

- (1) Are you yourself in favour of a Bill for extending the franchise to women on the same terms that men have it? Will you promise to vote for a Bill, whether it is introduced by the Government or by a private Member?
- (2) Are you prepared to give the question a prominent place in your Election Address?
- (3) Will you do your best to get your Party to adopt a measure for the enfranchisement of women?

Mr. Nickalls answered the second and third questions in the affirmative, but said he could not do so with the first.

The gentlemen forming the deputation were the Rev. Keith Walden, Dr. Bushnell, Alderman Carden, Messrs. H. Milner Black, G. S. Godfree, F. Merrifield, S. H. James, and E. R. Smith, with Mr. Adrian Brunel (Hon. Secretary). Mr. Brunel accounted for the absence of Prebendary Bond, Dr. King, Mr. Arthur Hall, Mr. J. E. Francis, and Mr. Pearman.

Mr. Nickalls, replying, said he had not been influenced one way or another by the outbursts of the Suffragettes. People who believed in a cause should never be prejudiced by anything their Party did. The whole argument that women were mentally inferior had gone to the wall. A year or so ago he was against—not stongly—women having the vote; but during the last year he had taken a more active part in social questions, and had seen the part women had played, and now he thought they should have votes and must have votes. The question should be settled, not shirked. He thought he might say he was prepared to mention the subject in his election address. He would help to the best of his ability the movement for getting votes for women. He realized the great force in the argument that votes under certain conditions should be given rather than not at all, but he could not reply to the first question in the affirmative. He had always felt that the present franchise which men enjoyed created injustice, and at present he could not help feeling that if women were given the vote on the same lines it would perpetuate and extend the injustice. He would be willing to support an extension on democratic lines.

EDINBURGH (AFFILIATED SOCIETY).

MR. G. K. HOLMES has been appointed Joint Hon. Secretary. A very successful public meeting was held on December 16th in the Livingstone Hall. The speakers were Dr. W. Fleming Phillips, President of the Glasgow Men's League, and Miss Chrystal Macmillan, M.A., B.Sc., the chairman being Councillor W. Bruce Lindsay. The hall was crowded with an appreciative and interested audience. W. W. TAYLOR, Joint Hon. Sec.

BOURNEMOUTH.

ON Thursday, December 16th, we held a public meeting in the Prince's Hall, Grand Hotel. The audience of about 150 was not so large as we hoped would be present, the weather being against us. The masterly and at the same time delightful address by Mr. Laurence Housman was greatly appreciated. We hope to have the pleasure of hearing him again in the near future. W. L. HULL, Hon. Sec.

THE following report is taken from the columns of the *Bournemouth Directory* of December 18th:—

"MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Under the auspices of the Bournemouth branch of this League a public meeting was held in the Prince's Hall, Grand Hotel, on Thursday evening. The speaker was Mr. Laurence Housman. . . . In the course of a masterly speech covering nearly every aspect of the question of Woman's Suffrage, he pointed out that the doctrine that woman's sphere was in the home had broken down, because five million women in this country had been driven out of their homes and forced to make their own living, and he argued that having imposed these economic conditions upon women, it was cowardly of men to deny them that protection of the vote which the labouring man had found just and necessary. By what miracle, he asked, were these five millions to be safeguarded against their trade rivals unless they were given the same power of defence as was possessed by those rivals? The Government was the greatest employer of sweated labour, and would, he feared, continue to be until the women, by being given the vote, were able to bring such pressure to bear as the Labour Party had been able to. The Anti-Suffragists only existed because they did not know the application of the existing laws touching women, or because they lived in a class where these laws did not affect them. If they lived in a class where the laws did affect them they would see

that all this talk about women's suffrage was not mere theory, but a real, urgent, practical question, with which human blood and lives were mixed up, and there was going on day by day grievous suffering because of those laws. At the close Mr. Housman replied to questions. Mr. J. K. Hume, B.A., presided over a good attendance."

MANCHESTER BRANCH.

THE Branch has been particularly active during December, and with the General Election looming ahead, we expect to be still more busy during January. On the occasion of Mr. Winston Churchill's visit to Manchester on December 6th, in connexion with his Lancashire campaign, he was requested to receive a deputation from the Branch on the subject of Women's Suffrage; but this he declined to do, his secretary in a letter explaining that Mr. Churchill's time was fully occupied, and that, as his views on the subject were well known, no useful purpose could be served by his granting the desired interview.

The winter campaign of the Branch, referred to in my last report, was opened on December 9th, with the holding of a meeting in the Portland Café, Portland Street, Manchester. Mr. D. M. Humphreys presided, and in an address of half-an-hour's duration, Canon E. L. Hicks, M.A., the President of the Branch, dealt ably with the question, 'The Crisis and our Duty,' urging the necessity for Women's Suffrage and the urgency of the reform. Though a staunch Liberal, he freely criticised the illiberal attitude of the Liberal Government on the question. The President's address was followed by an interesting discussion on the situation. A resolution was adopted by the meeting urging the party leaders to include the reform in the respective programmes, and copies were sent to the Premier and to Mr. Balfour. From Mr. Asquith a stereotyped, noncommittal reply was later received. Mr. Balfour in reply sent a declaration which he has drawn up and has forwarded to all associations who have approached him on the subject. He leaves it an open question, and his followers, he says, are free to hold and to express on the matter any views they like.

At the meeting four questions were drawn up, and these have been submitted to the candidates in about thirty constituencies in and around Manchester. The questions are:—

1. Will you, if elected, vote in favour of a Bill granting the Parliamentary Franchise to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men, whether such measure is introduced by the Government or by a private member? (a) In the latter alternative will you press for its adoption by the Government?
2. Are you prepared to give the question a prominent place in your Election Address and at your meetings?
3. If you are returned to Parliament and your party to power, will you, as soon as the Cabinet is formed, bring all the influence you can to bear on ministers to secure the promise that on an early date they will bring in a Bill giving the Parliamentary Franchise to women, and continue to press the Cabinet till the pledge is redeemed?
4. Will you, if elected, press upon the Government the necessity for treating Suffragist prisoners as political offenders and placing them in the first division?

Replies to these questions are still at the time of writing coming in. So far entirely satisfactory replies have been received from Mr. L. W. Zimmerman (Lib. E. Manchester), and Sir W. G. Crossley (Lib., Altrincham); favourable, from Messrs. T. C. Taylor (Lib., Radcliffe), E. Elvy Robb (Cons., E. Manchester), and A. M. Samuel (Cons., Stretford), and Sir George Kemp (Lib., N.W. Manchester); unsatisfactory, from Messrs. A. J. King (Lib., Knutsford), Arthur Colefax (Cons., S.W. Manchester), C. A. M. Barlow (Cons., S. Salford), and Ian Malcolm (Cons., N. Salford). We have so far received no point-blank negative answers. In addition to these written questions our members, we hope, will attend candidates' meetings to question them verbally and in public on their attitude towards Votes for Women. Our next public meeting will be held in the Portland Café on January 20th next. During the month we have provided stewards for W.S.P.U. and Freedom League Meetings.

W. BENTLY CAPPER, Junr., Hon. Sec.

21, Oxford Road, Manchester.

[Much news is unavoidably excluded for lack of space.—Ed.]