

THE VOTE

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

VOL. II.—No. 51.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

Telephone: HOLBORN 6191.

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

United Kingdom 6/6 per annum, post free.

Foreign Countries 8/8 " " "

"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith & Sons.

WHAT WE THINK.

Comparisons.

The fall of the House of Braganza was due, says Senhor Braga, the new President of Portugal, and the most scholarly and unlikely of revolutionaries, to the fact that it had failed to keep abreast of modern progress, and had done nothing to render the people master of their own destinies. In a word, the dynasty only represented a small section of the people. Without entering into European complications and the question as to whether Bombarda met his death by clerical or other influences, it is surely a sign of the times that a people will not tolerate a Government which does not represent them. When those in whom power lies put back the hands of the clock and refuse to realise the demands of evolution and progress, then, as surely "as the night the day," will follow revolution—either tin-pot, as in Portugal, or world-rocking, as in France. The event has come as an opportune lesson to our own politicians. There is seething in the great heart of the country a vast feeling of indignation against a Government which refuses to see that the greater half of the population is in chains and denied their just rights to a voice in the scheme of things—a right won in every field which male prejudice could not close to them. As the Royalist troops went over to the Republicans in Portugal, so are great numbers of Liberals coming over to the anti-Government side—to the women's party, which stands for justice and equality of opportunity for all. Whilst Mr. Lloyd George is explaining Form IV. to the male voters, from whom he has much to expect, we are preparing the way for the new régime which will give us the Conciliation Bill. At our great mass meeting at Trafalgar Square the resolution in favour of the Bill was carried from every platform with hardly a dissident, and that resolution, demanding immediate facilities, is the watchword of our revolution.

The Unemployed Teacher.

The crisis in the teaching profession is now so acute that certificated women teachers are accepting berths as waitresses and servants, and are engaged in addressing envelopes and in other depressing, ill-paid, and ungenial occupations. Our grievance against a government which employs women and men teachers of equal capacity at different rates (average uncertificated man £66 per annum, average woman £54; average certificated man £124, average woman £89) is now complicated by another and even more serious complaint, and it is that the slack enforcement of the rule that no class shall contain more

than sixty children has caused nearly a thousand teachers of those actually trained this year to be without employment. The lack of apparent harmony between the supply and demand for teachers is due to two things. The first of these is the fact that the Board of Education has hitherto taken no steps to foresee its future staffing requirements, while local authorities tempt with bursaries and national authorities with grants the intelligent youth of the country to enter a profession that easily becomes overstocked; and the second is the fact that in a large number of schools the classes are of unteachable size, and, moreover, are taught by uncertificated teachers. We hear continually that the Government treats with great tact and wisdom those who are employed by it, and yet we see that certificated and capable teachers of both sexes are, through the mismanagement of the Government, thrown into the ranks of the unemployed. The supply and demand of teachers is under official control, and it is interesting to note that for these man-made official muddles women, who have no means of political redress, are equal sufferers with, if not greater than, the men.

A New Advisory Committee.

Each year seventy thousand boys and girls leave the elementary schools of London alone. There has been for some time past an effort made to turn boys away from such employment as will lead them nowhere. An interesting example of this care for male youth has recently been seen in the action of the Post Office in substituting girl messengers for boys, so that the latter might not through any action of the Government be deprived of the chance of a career. Exactly what career awaits the girls who will be employed on January 1st, 1911 (at a shilling a week less), remains to be seen. The future of females has not as yet become of vital importance to our legislators. The new Juvenile Advisory Committee in connection with the London Labour Exchanges, inasmuch as it has been devised to deal with the problem of boy and girl labour, can, however, help the young women of the country from being side-tracked into unskilled occupations, if its members—and their names are sound enough—take an equal interest in their future. It is just as serious a matter for a young girl that she shall not be allowed to drift into an employment in which there are no prospects as for a boy. But until women take their proper place as citizens this fact is not unlikely to be forgotten.

Prophecies and Facts.

Mr. Haldane, when addressing his Scottish constituents a few days ago, declared that it was too late to draw the line anywhere—that women could not be restricted to school boards, parish councils, or even county councils, and that he was now, and had always been, a firm believer in this—that before long the country would take the lead in extending the franchise to women. This public expression of faith from a Cabinet Minister coincides with resolutions passed by several city and town councils expressing their approval of the Conciliation Bill. Dublin Corporation—the importance of whose opinion at a time when the Irish Party has extraordinary power, is considerable—expressed their approval on October 3rd; Fraserburgh Town Council, by a majority of seven to four, decided last week to petition Parliament in favour of the Bill; and already the Town Council of Glasgow has passed a similar resolution calling upon the Government to grant facilities.

MADAM STEER, Theatrical Costumier
and Wig Maker,

22, MAIDEN LANE, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.

Factory: 5, WATERLOO ROAD, S.E.

FANCY COSTUMES Made to Order or Lent on Hire.
THEATRICAL BOOTS AND SHOES MADE TO ORDER.

**WE DON'T THINK,
WE KNOW.**

ROYAL WORCESTER KID FITTING CORSETS are the most perfect in shape and most comfortable in wear, and give that indefinable smartness to the figure which is so charming. For name and address of nearest agent and booklet write to **ROYAL WORCESTER WAREHOUSE CO.,** 19 & 21, Great Portland Street, London, W.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.**Offices: 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.**Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—15143 Central.
Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.**President and Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. C. DESPARD.****HON. ASSIST. TREASURER, MISS C. V. TITE.****HON. SEC., MRS. HOW MARTYN, A.R.C.S., B.Sc.; ASST. SEC., MISS THOMPSON.****Hon. Departmental Officers:**ORGANISING DEPARTMENT.—POLITICAL AND MILITANT, **MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG**; PROPAGANDA, **MRS. BORRMANN WELLS**.
PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT.—**MRS. SNOW.****PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT.****The Work.**

Our autumn campaign commenced on Saturday last with the mass meeting in Trafalgar Square, of which full reports are given elsewhere in this number. Our heartiest thanks are due to all who contributed to the success of that meeting—speakers, stewards, and banner-bearers. These last weeks before the opening of Parliament will see us more active than ever. Open-air meetings continue, and it is hoped that the organisers of these will see that the sale of literature, especially Mr. H. N. Brailsford's penny pamphlet on the Conciliation Bill, is pushed on every occasion, and that voters and householders are urged to send postcards to the Prime Minister. These can be obtained at the Office.

W.F.L. Day.

The next great event is W.F.L. Day, Friday, October 28th, which will be celebrated throughout the branches of the League. In London a meeting will be held at the Small Queen's Hall at 7.30. This day marks the anniversary of three events of the greatest importance to the League—the Grille protest, the Bermondsey protest, and the first issue of *THE VOTE*. In addition to Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Billington-Greig, it is hoped that Miss Muriel Matters, the most prominent figure in the Grille protest, will by then have arrived from Australia, and will speak. Miss Neilans and Mrs. Chapin will speak in connection with the Bermondsey incident, and Miss Lawson, the managing director of *THE VOTE*. No loyal member of the League then in London should be absent from this meeting. It will be a day of congratulations and a day for the renewal of our vows of devotion to the great cause. Tickets, price 1s., are now on sale at the office. It is hoped that delegates and friends who are visiting London for the Conference on October 29th will arrange their arrival in time for this meeting, in which case they should apply for tickets beforehand, as it is certain the demand will be great.

Lecture on Shelley.

As announced last week, tickets for Mrs. Despard's lecture on Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound" are now on sale at the Office, price 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d. Application for these should be made at once. Those who have heard Mrs. Despard only on a Suffrage platform should not miss this opportunity. Those who have already heard her on this subject will not need a second invitation. The lecture, which takes place on Sunday, November 6th, at the Small Queen's Hall at 7.30, will be preceded by a vocal recital by Miss Marta Cunningham.

Members' Reunions.

The second Reunion will be held on Friday, October 14th, at 1, Robert Street, at 7.30. These meetings are quite informal, and members are urged to come frequently. One or more of the officers of the League will always be present, and it is hoped that members, both those who belong to local branches and those who are unattached, will meet to exchange ideas and to obtain advice on the Parliamentary situation or on any other difficulty. The speakers this week will be Mrs. Despard and Mrs. How Martyn.

"At Homes."

The Thursday afternoon "At Homes" commence on November 3rd at Caxton Hall at 3 p.m., when Mrs. Despard will occupy the chair and Mrs. Sproson will speak. A most interesting programme is being drawn up, including many well-known names, such as Miss Mar-

garet McMillan, Mr. G. E. O'Dell, Mme. Malmberg, the Rev. Hugh B. Chapman, and Miss Cicely Hamilton. Members who are free in the afternoon are urged to be present as often as possible, and to make these "At Homes" known among their friends.

Suffrage Fair.

On October 21st and 22nd a Suffrage Fair will be held at the Suffrage Atelier, 1, Pembroke Cottages, Edwardes Square, Kensington, at which all the Suffrage Societies are taking part. The W.F.L. is providing a stall for sweets and literature, and Madame Ulica has very kindly promised her services as palmist. Mrs. Fisher will be very pleased to receive contributions to the sweet stall. Mrs. Despard is speaking at three o'clock on October 21st. Tickets, price 6d. each, are now on sale at the Office.

Florence Nightingale Meeting.

A meeting in honour of Florence Nightingale will be held at 34, Elgin Crescent, Notting Hill, W., by kind permission of Mrs. Denibas, on Wednesday, November 2nd, at 3.30. The speakers will include Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B., M.D., R.A.M.C., Mrs. How Martyn, and Miss Hare. Tickets of invitation may be obtained from the Office.

ALBERT HALL, SWANSEA, MASS MEETING.

There were many rumours afloat during Monday, October 3rd, as to what might be expected in the way of interruption at the evening meeting, and the stewards, both men and women, were all expecting more or less exciting times.

As the speakers came on to the platform it was seen that the huge hall was packed from floor to ceiling, and that even the standing room was rapidly filling up. One was only conscious of a sea of eager faces and of an intense feeling of exaltation that with this magnificent opportunity presenting itself we had a message which was at least worthy of its hearing.

Acting as Chairman, Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., briefly welcomed those present, and especially the "fifty Aberystwyth students" reported to have arrived, saying that she herself had been for two years a student at their college. Amidst loud applause Mrs. Billington-Greig was introduced, and shortly after she had risen the first indication of an irresponsible element in the audience was given; but Mrs. Billington-Greig has had too much experience in handling large and even angry crowds to be at all disturbed by this little display of youthful "chivalry," and in a very few moments had gripped the attention of the audience, and gave a carefully reasoned exposition of the justification for militant tactics, the Conciliation Bill, and finally, analysing the attitude of Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill, she proved that unless the former had some stronger motive than that already produced as an excuse for his opposition he had completely failed to justify the breaking of his public and oft-repeated pledges.

It was very noticeable how the audience, which had at first laughed with the interruptors, soon got impatient of hearing one man (*not* a student) make bad imitations of a cock crowing, and showed by their attitude that they meant to hear the speakers.

Miss Alison Neilans, speaking in the absence of Mrs. K. Manson, followed with a stirring address on the fundamental ideas behind women's demand for votes, and showed briefly how the ideals of good government could not be realised unless women were politically free.

The resolution, calling upon the Government to give full facilities this session for the passing into law of the Conciliation Bill, was carried with great enthusiasm after a good collection had been taken, and then Mrs. Billington-Greig delighted the audience with her ready answers to questions.

In a huge successful meeting such as this was, not less than 2500 people being present, one always looks for the brains behind it which did the work, and while there were very many workers who deserve all praise—the stewards, the collectors and sellers, the umbrella paraders, those who decorated the hall—yet all would probably admit that most of the success of the Executive visit was due to the untiring energy and forethought of the Hon. District Organiser, Mrs. McLeod Cleaves.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE MASS MEETING.

If there was any lingering doubt in Mr. Asquith's mind as to the general attitude of the public towards the Conciliation Bill it would have been permanently set at rest had he been present at Saturday's mass meeting. There were seven platforms, at each of which there were distinguished speakers and a large and representative audience. The centre of the plinth where Mrs. Despard spoke, was surrounded by an immense crowd which ultimately prolonged question time to such an extent that the police began to get anxious that the Square should be cleared. The crowds at every platform were entirely friendly and entirely orderly, and, whatever their class, in perfect sympathy with the women's demand.

There were two representatives of the Anti-Suffrage movement in the Square—one a man of the class whose misfortunes lead them to the chance distribution of bills, and who gave Lord Cromer's views to all and sundry who cared to have them; and the other a well-dressed and warlike woman who, unlike the type that the Antis have decided shall be the ideal one, seemed ready to pick a quarrel with the most peaceful of Suffragists, none of whom, however, gave her opportunity for active warfare.

On the plinth the colours of the League and the great banners were well displayed, and around the Square were other devices in green, gold, and white and the motto "Dare to be Free" were shown. Copies of *THE VOTE* and suffrage literature had a ready sale. At 4.15 the bugle from every platform sounded, and the resolution, "That, whereas the enfranchisement of women is a matter of urgent national importance, and whereas Parliament, by a majority of 110, has declared in its favour, this meeting calls upon the Prime Minister and the Government to give effect to their democratic pledges by granting facilities for the passing into law of the Conciliation Bill now before the House," was put and carried, in nearly every case unanimously. At the close of the meeting a new scroll, made specially for the meeting, was hoisted, on which was written:

"And shall the Vote Bill die?

And shall the Vote Bill die?

Twenty thousand Suffragettes will know the reason why."

This was subsequently borne behind Mrs. Despard in the procession leaving the Square en route for the offices of the League, and the traffic stopped to make way for it.

PLATFORM 1.—WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. Mrs. Despard's Speech.

Mrs. Despard, who was in the chair, said: Both men and women realise that they are asking for the same things, but that we poor women are obliged to ask for them in the face of an intolerable position, and in the face, consequently, of every sort of difficulty until we can ask for them side by side as brothers constitutionally and citizens; until that time comes, my friends, we shall not have that better world we are asking for—that world in which we wish our children to grow up. I simply ask for the vote, and I am going on to tell you why we are asking for the vote, as I know many people do not understand that. They think this is just a little bit of perversity on the part of the women that they want the vote, and that they want to get in a commanding position. Woman's place is inside her home. She has no business to take any interest in the large things of life, they say; and that position is an absolutely natural one. We want to bring about nothing that is not natural. We want to restore that which is natural and that which is right, and women to recognise their humanity.

Warrior Women.—Men Object that Women Do Not Fight.

We have been warrior women. I have been a fighter for a good many years of my life. We cannot get any good things without fighting for them. I am going to say clearly that there would have been no place for the warrior women had it not been for the women who fought years ago for education. There are platforms there where they are going to put that very plainly before you. Men and women are both of them human men and women, with the same brain faculty. We do not belong to a different species. You know that women have been much more hampered than the men. Women do not get the same education even now. My friends, we have come here to ask your help, everyone of you, in the great campaign that is still before us. We know perfectly well what we are going to do, and we know another thing—I have not lived so many years in this world without knowing what is at the bottom of the heart of the man, as well as of the heart of the woman—once you Englishmen in your souls and hearts realise that this is a right and just thing, that this is a thing that is to be if you

are to have right and justice in this world, then you will not hesitate any longer.

In Wales recently we had an enthusiastic audience. There we brought with us a little postcard, and this postcard demands that Mr. Lloyd George should lose no time in endeavouring to get us what we want—this Bill that we desire. Who are signing these postcard petitions? Not the women. They do not count. If anything comes from the women, it is thrown into the waste-paper basket, and nothing comes of it; but if it comes from a man, the man may be a voter, and so we are asking our brothers to help us in this matter. We are asking them to press upon their constituency, and their representative, to make it known that they desire the Vote for women.

Now, my brothers, I am bringing the resolution, which I hope will be passed with acclamation. Before I do so, I want to put it a little from the point of view of the man. In Wales we had a little Suffrage Shop, and every day we used to be outside there, and people would come and talk to us about what we are doing. I well remember one gentleman who came to me and said: "Look here. Don't you think that you women are going outside your sphere in taking on yourselves to put forward the suffrage when there are so many more important questions before the country?" "I know this is a time of crisis," I answered, "and I know there are tremendous questions to be settled, but the Liberal Government does not settle these things, only puts them a little lower down, and says, 'You must be satisfied now.'"

No Such Thing as Inferiority.

My brothers, I wish you would see that men and women are not different, but the same humanity. What is interesting to men is deeply interesting to women—I think more to women, because they are brought in touch with the very springs of life. These questions are vital to us; and don't you think that at this critical time men and women should work together? That is what we say. Further, there is another thing I want to say to you, and it is that there is not such a thing as inferiority. If two human beings are together, or if a certain number of them are superior and a certain number of them inferior, as they will be, what is the result? The result is bad for both, both for those above and for those below.

I had the very great honour and pleasure the other day of being present at the great reception given in honour of the greatest man of the negro race, Mr. Booker Washington, who gave us the most thrilling speech and one of the finest I have ever heard. In the course of his speech—he was speaking on races, and I am speaking about sex—he said it is always bad for the top race as well as for the bottom race that they should live like that together. He said, "I as a boy was a great fighter. I was always successful, and I always whipped those I was fighting with, and somebody came to me, and asked how it was that I was successful. I answered that I always took very great care who was my man." He then said, "I used to delight in getting my opponent put in a ditch, and standing over him. As I got old I came to find that it is rather dull holding my opponent in the ditch. You must be there yourself. You must let your adversary get out, and you must stand beside your adversary."

The resolution was carried by an immense majority, only six out of a densely-massed crowd voting against it.

In response to an appeal from Mrs. Despard, there was a large collection. The collectors were unable to penetrate the crowd, so the people pelted money on the plinth.

Mrs. Cobden Sanderson.

In the course of a well-reasoned speech, Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson said: We live in revolutionary times. The will of the people must prevail. The Portuguese Royal Family fell because it did not consider this. Berlin has also revolted, and the revolt there would have been more sanguinary had it not been for women, who placed themselves in the front—their own and their children—and it takes much self-sacrifice to sacrifice your child. Here the women are also in revolt against the social and economical condition of things, for similar grievances prevail here to those which prevail in Tariff Reform Germany.

Mr. Lloyd George will be attacked more severely. Hitherto he has had some unpleasant moments; now we are going to attack his pocket. We are going to have our say in the spending of twelve millions on Dreadnoughts, and also on the reform of Poor Law system. I am a Poor Law guardian, but I am almost ashamed to own it, for I find the whole system of Poor Law administration is rotten to the core, and I work harder as such than in presenting petitions at Downing Street.

Our next move is to pay no taxes. It is the most direct and unanswerable method. If we are not good enough to vote, we are not good enough to pay. No vote, no tax. Those little income-tax forms, Form IV. or VI., or some other number, will be just thrown into the basket and not returned. Everyone who perhaps has not an income to be taxed can have a dog, and then refuse to pay tax.

We all at the bottom of our souls know that we want a betterment of affairs, and we women are going to try to alter things and improve conditions of men and women, and then the exports and imports will go up by leaps and bounds. There are starving women in this richest country in the world, and therefore we are going to revolt and make a revolution among the women, and the revolution is sure to succeed if we give our lives and time and money to bring it about.

Mr. G. E. O'Dell (Ethical Society).

In the course of his remarks Mr. O'Dell said: "There is one word in the resolution that I want to draw your attention to, and that word is 'urgent.' The meeting here to-day is one of a number of meetings which are being held at this time throughout the country with one object, and that object is to send a national reply from those who care in the country to Mr. Lloyd George to declare that the question of women's suffrage is the most urgent question before the country at the present moment." Mr. O'Dell then questioned the urgency of Welsh disestablishment, pointing out that if many people in England are interested in the disestablishment of the Church of Wales, the whole of the men and women throughout England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales have an interest in the question of women's suffrage. Therefore the women's question comes before the question of the Welsh Disestablishment. There are grievances that women in Wales think should be righted before the question of the disestablishment of the Church in Wales. The question of votes for women is far more urgent than this question. Turning to the question of Home Rule, he observed that he was an Irishman, and a determined believer and Home Rule supporter, but that he thought that votes for women were more urgent, that the grievances of Irish women should be righted before the question of Home Rule. "There is no Home Rule Bill before Parliament at the present time. If there were it is understood that the House of Lords would not pass it. Yet we have before the House to-day a Bill demanding votes for women which it is almost certain the House of Lords would carry. So we say in reply to Mr. Lloyd George that we still believe that votes for women is a far more urgent question than Welsh Disestablishment or Home Rule for Ireland."

Miss Irene Miller also spoke at this platform, and kept the crowd interested for a length of time.

PLATFORM II.—PROFESSIONAL.**Miss Marie Lawson.**

Miss Marie Lawson, in her opening remarks, said that the speakers that day belonged to many different societies, and represented various classes of the community and all shades of political opinion, but all were united in a common belief—a belief in the justice, the wisdom, and the necessity of granting the Vote to women. It was their opinion that representative government ought to be based, and could with safety only be based, on the judgment and the conclusions of the whole community, women and men alike, who were equally affected by the actions of such government. They were there that day to demand facilities for the Women's Suffrage Conciliation Bill. After referring to the terms of peace which were incorporated in the Bill, Miss Lawson said that it seemed impossible that, even after these terms of peace had been offered and accepted, Mr. Asquith's personal prejudice could be so implacable that he still preferred the continuance of the militant agitation which, accompanied by great suffering and sacrifice, had been forced upon those women who believed in justice and in liberty. They were there to ask the Prime Minister whether at the earliest possible stage of the new session—and they thought it might properly be done at a very early stage—he would take steps to give effect to the decision of the House of Commons on their question, whether he would facilitate the further stages of the Conciliation Bill, which had gained a greater majority in Parliament than any that had been accorded to the so-called important measures of the Government programme; and, said the speaker, "We still harbour the belief, we still retain the hope, that he may even now prove accessible to the appeals made to him—if not to the appeals of the women themselves, then to the appeals made on their behalf by that large majority in the House of Commons, and by a great volume of public opinion throughout the country."

Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.

Mrs. How Martyn, supporting the resolution, mentioned that all the organised Societies of Women Teachers were demanding Women's Suffrage. Turning to the political situation and the prospects for the Conciliation Bill, Mrs. How Martyn exposed the hollowness and treachery which underlie the opposition offered to the Bill by Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill.

Mrs. Ayres Purdie A.L.A.A.

Mrs. Purdie spoke about the disabilities and handicap of women in professions due to their lack of status. She was once the object of a Bill which, if it passed, would have made her liable to a fine of £10 and £1 per day thereafter so long as she continued practising her profession. It was absurd to suppose women were going to pay M.P.'s to pass Bills such as these. Women would never break down the barriers which kept them from advancing in the professions while they were denied representation.

PLATFORM III.—INDUSTRIAL.

Miss Alison Neilans was in the chair at this platform, and explained the terms of the Bill and the urgent need for its immediate passage into law.

Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, M.P. (Bethnal Green)

Mr. Pickersgill, M.P., dealt with the disadvantages due to women having no place on the Prison Board, and said that for twenty-five years he had been trying to obtain the appointment of one woman on the Prison Board, but without effect. He then proceeded to compare the attitude of Mr. Lloyd George towards the Conciliation Bill and that of his followers towards the Budget, remarking that while Mr. Lloyd George had

refused to look at this Bill, declaring he wanted a great democratic measure, it was an open secret that his own followers did not regard the Budget as democratic enough, yet they voted for it as a first step towards what they wanted. If this principle of getting what you can is good in general, it applies with twofold force to the great question of enfranchisement.

Speaking on the subject of equal pay for equal work, Mr. W. J. Read, editor of *The Clerk*, the organ of the Clerks' Union, said that on that ground alone women ought to be put on an equality with men so that the work should be given to the one that was best able to do it. He instanced the case of Allsop's, where women at £1 1s. were employed for economy's sake to replace numbers of men at £2 2s. If a man should be paid more because he had a wife and family, the State and not the employer should pay the difference.

Miss Eva Gore-Booth.

In the course of her address Miss Gore-Booth dealt with the labour problem as regards women. Having gone into the different industrial disputes of the day—the Edinburgh compositors, the Cradley Heath chain-makers, and others—she remarked that the whole of our industrial world is full of laws and restrictions and regulations that interfere with industry and trade, and at present one great section of workers (the women) have nothing whatever to do with making or regulating the laws which govern their labour, and that is why women are much worse paid than men.

Full reports of the speeches of Mr. Pickersgill and Miss Eva Gore-Booth will be contained in next week's VOTE.

PLATFORM IV.—UNIVERSITY.

Miss Hicks, M.A., was in the chair at the University platform, and she was supported by a large number of speakers of university distinction from different Universities. Having explained the present situation, she remarked that their pioneers in the past had had to fight for intellectual freedom, and in proportion, as they took an intelligent interest in the affairs of their country, were they likely to be better wives and mothers. Every widening of their opportunities had been taken by women and exercised to the full for the benefit of the nation. They were there that day to ask for the co-operation of the general public in helping them towards those other opportunities arising out of the Franchise, whose use would lead to a better, a healthier, and a freer England.

Miss Marion Phillips, B.A., D.Sc.

Miss Marion Phillips, B.A., D.Sc., while demanding support for the Conciliation Bill, declared that it was not a perfect Bill—it would not give them a perfect Franchise, because there were anomalies in man-made law—but they took it for what it was worth. The first step in freedom had been taken when women had been free to be educated, and it was then that they first felt the need for the Vote as well. The widening of knowledge had taught them the need for political power. Every day saw the making or the administering of legislation affecting the home, and in making the laws the women had no voice. Equal responsibility would never be felt by women until by the Vote, as well as by the carrying out of the laws, they were considered—until all the wisdom of the ages shall deal with both sides of every question. "We do not live in a land that was made only for one sex," she said; "we live in a country where the family unit means men, women, and children. It is only a little step that we ask you to take—to ask you to give the Vote to those who have the municipal vote; afterwards those who wish for more will push on farther. The day for argument is past; there is only prejudice left and that stone wall of inaction which the Government, frightened to do away with its legal anomalies, raises against our movement."

Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B., M.D., R.A.M.C.

In rising to speak, General Evatt declared that he came there to express his profound sympathy with the women, who were denied their fair share in the government of the Empire. In nearly forty years' service in all quarters of the world, he had found that there was no fixed position given to women. In the Indian zenanas the women were deprived of liberty, but they were taken care of. If men desired to keep women in subjection, at least they should take care of them. But the day of subjection had gone by for both men and women. In many countries and women were subordinate, but here in England they were not. Here the woman was made to fight her own battles, and if she were made do this she should be given all the rights that a man was given. The cause of the woman was the cause of the man: they rose and fell together. As the mothers, so would be the children; and if the family were destroyed the Empire would be destroyed. In the Army they were daily rejecting any number of soldiers because they were physically unfit. If the women were degraded, these men would be the result. The mothers were left uncared for in the slums, and drunkenness was spreading amongst these uncared-for women. The laws were all one-sided, and until these things were changed, the nation was in danger. In that square they saw the statue of the great Nelson, whose words he would paraphrase, and say "I demand that every woman be allowed to do her duty," and in this way bring her great practical knowledge for the common good. Singly they were weak; together they were strong.

Dr. Bather, F.R.S., F.G.S.

Dr. Bather, in the course of his remarks, said it was often asked, "Why do women want the Vote?" and he answered it by the question, "Why do men want it?" There was not one single reason why men should desire it which did not equally

apply to women, and even more, for women were always assumed to be the weaker sex. This country had always been noted for its fair play. They were told from their earliest youth to play the game; but to handicap the weaker sex was not playing the game. There were some men who did not care about their votes, and who could not understand why the women were making such a fuss about it. But such men never reflected on the struggle there had been and there was now over votes for men. This Empire had sacrificed millions of lives to get a few white men the Vote in South Africa. And what were our political speakers going around their constituencies for, and why was Mr. F. E. Smith writing long letters to the *Times* over the Osborne judgment? It all meant that certain men wished to be properly represented in Parliament, and wished to give their hard-earned money to be represented, and were ready to break the law to keep this privilege. It was impossible to say that the men of the country regarded their votes as of no value. They had done deeds to gain them beside which the kicking over the traces on the part of women was small indeed. For the same reasons that men do, women want the Vote to help them in their struggle. The House of Lords had lately been discussing the question of medical attendance on women who, poor and in childbed, were likely to die. By the special Bill which says who is to pay it is decided that if the woman does not pay she is to be brought in contact with the workhouse and made to feel a pauper, and when some protest was raised it was declared that to prevent the doctor being called in was the object of the Bill. As if when we went to war the wounded soldier were deterred from calling in the surgeon and the nurse! It is very certain that if women were consulted they would not agree to the terms of this Bill. What can these men know of the agony of a woman in childbed? They are utterly incompetent to discuss such questions in fairness to women.

PLATFORM V.—CHURCH.

The Rev. G. Llewellyn Smith (Wembley) was in the chair, and explained the position of Church people towards the movement. The Rev. C. Hinscliff, organiser of the Church League for Women's Suffrage, and the Rev. G. W. Thompson dealt with the absolute equality of men and women which the Church accepted.

Rev. Father Healey.

But home is not a woman's sphere if people meant by that that she is never to go beyond it. A woman ought to know what is happening in her village, in her town, and even in her country. He asked, Was not all this talk about woman's proper sphere being the home simply lying, hypocritical cant? He asked them to think of the half million of poor working women whom they had forced out of their homes into industrialism. If home is the sphere of the woman, why did not Englishmen allow all these poor women to stay there and look after their children? But there was another class who had been forced out of their homes. What of the hundred thousand fallen women in that city to-day who had no home at all, who had been forced out of their homes very largely by the industrial chaos which prevailed, and driven to a life which gave them no home at all? It was simply lying cant and hypocrisy to talk about woman's sphere being the home whilst they had these two classes of women in the country with no home life at all. He did not pretend for a moment that all Christians or all members of the Church had been on the side they were advocating to-day. On the contrary, wealthy members of the Church had been interested in keeping women down and in an inferior position. All he wanted to say was this: That whenever a bishop or priest or influential member of the Church had used any power he possessed to keep women in an inferior position, he had had the Church to which he belonged against him all the time, because in the Church men and women were accepted on an absolute equality. No one could find in the whole organisation of the Church a single thing or a single way in which woman was treated as she was treated in the State to-day. Men and women were taken into the Church on an absolute equality to an absolutely equal fellowship, and any woman who took part in the worship and sacraments of the Church was expressing thereby absolute equality between the sexes. They, as members of the Church, claimed that women should have the fullest possible expression of their citizenship in the name of justice, in the name of national efficiency, and in the name of Almighty God.

PLATFORM VI.—ARTS AND LITERATURE.**Mrs. Nevinson.**

Mrs. Nevinson, who was in the chair, having read the resolution, in the course of her speech said: The Conciliation Bill is a first instalment of justice, the first righteous thing that we accept and that we are willing to take. If anybody owed you £1,000, and said, "I cannot give the whole amount to you now, but will pay you £100 on account and the rest later on," every wise person having anything to do with finance would say, "All right. I will take the £100 now and the rest as soon as you can let me have it." Women are naturally becoming very indignant with the Budget, which has put Women's Income Tax up to 1s. 2d. in the £. Before the war we only paid 6d. Women had nothing to do with the causes involving increased taxation, and yet we now have to pay 1s. 2d.

Income-Tax Courtesy.

Here I have one of Mr. Lloyd George's wonderful forms, with its numerous questions, to answer which intelligently I should require, apparently, the training of a lawyer and surveyor, and a fund of universal knowledge which I do not possess. I am asked to answer those questions, but am not considered fit to vote for a member of Parliament. This Form is addressed to me because I have a little freehold property, but it starts off with "Sir." I am sending it back, pointing out that I must be addressed as "Madam," and not "Sir," and that as I have no vote, I do not see what this matter has to do with me. If you think of it, it is rather an insult to all women property holders to be addressed as "Sir," and not by their proper title of courtesy. The State seems to take for granted that there can be no free women or women freeholders in the country, but that all the land must be owned by men.

Now I will call upon Mr. Laurence Housman to address you. Mr. Housman is a well-known author and dramatist, one of whose plays has recently come under the ban of the Censor. Just why, I do not know; but in that play the unhappy Queen Caroline is shut out of Westminster Hall, while men laughed at her. Women are still shut out of the House at Westminster, and on the occasions that they have recently tried to enter the House of the People to demand justice for women, men from safe positions have laughed at them, and mounted police have been sent to ride those women down. They manage things better in France. When women called to see the responsible heads of Government in that country, they were received with courtesy and attention. Mr. Housman is one of the best friends of Woman's Suffrage. There are now four societies of men to help forward our cause, and I think their members might justly be called "knights of the new order of chivalry." I am not keenly anxious that a man should open a door for me; I am quite able to do that for myself, nor does it make very much difference to me if I have to stand in a train; but what women do want are full citizens' rights, and the men who are helping us to get them belong to the true order of chivalry.

(Continued on page 297.)

NO VOTE, NO TAXES.

The Women's Freedom League for the last three years has preached and practised tax resistance as a protest against unfranchisement. It is, therefore, very gratifying that the sister militant society has now decided, in the event of the Conciliation Bill not becoming law this session, also to adopt this form of protest. It is to be hoped that the Women's Tax Resistance League will succeed in persuading all the other Suffrage Societies to unite on this logical policy of refusing supplies until our grievance is redressed.

The Vote Girl awarded the prize in connection with her competition to Mr. A. Wheeler, 2, Crown Mansions, Liverpool Road, Holloway.



MRS. DESPARD SPEAKING AT TRAFALGAR SQUARE ON LAST SATURDAY. The large number of men in the crowd, of which but a small portion is visible, is particularly noticeable.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD., 148, Holborn Bars.
 Secretary—Miss M. E. RIDLER.
 Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc.,
 COUNTESS RUSSELL, Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE.
 Managing Director—Miss MARIE LAWSON.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1910.

THE APPEAL OF NUMBERS.

No truth becomes more true because it is accepted by many. No right is more clearly established because it is numerically strong in supporters. No fact is more real because many witness to it. But in these times, and especially in the politics of these times, there has grown up a worship of numbers, a system of judgment by enumeration. And those who fight in the political world must take account of it.

To-day everyone is more or less impressed by the causes that gather crowds. There seems to be an impression abroad that a thing is right and good because many believe in it—that there is some strange sanctity in a mere majority. The rights of the majority are glibly claimed and admitted. The weight of numbers is used to urge forward or to hold back. Before mind men bow the head—or curse. Before numbers they may curse still, but they fall prone. In such an atmosphere you gain a great mandate for your cause if you can display a procession of supporters along five metropolitan miles, fill Hyde Park, or deliver impassioned speeches to a crowded Trafalgar Square. These displays are accepted as evidence, these numbers as proofs. The average man and woman accept the cause under the intoxication of numbers; the Pressman and the politician acknowledge it because the numbers point them the path of self-interest.

Reason and righteousness, human advantage and individual need, are still the arguments for the moving of minds. But to the mob—to which the modern Pressman and the politician of all ages belong—the argument of numbers is the conclusive one. When right pleads weakly through the lips of a few it is unheard. When need croaks hoarsely from the gutter it is crushed underfoot. When the uplifting of barriers is urged in the language of persuasion it is ridiculed and neglected; but to the many shouting together there comes a hearing and the hope of victory.

Women have had many years in which to learn these facts, and in the militant movement they have applied their knowledge. They have beaten the drum to gather the crowd; they have offered the sacrifice to hold it. In the first phase of militancy the way of victory has been prepared; this phase is now closed and complete. In the present moment we are committed to constitutional action; until the fate of the Conciliation Bill is decided we are pledged to use no weapons of revolt. So that this of all times is the time for the employment of numbers. The rebel with heart afire can carry through the bitterest struggles of revolt with a few strong spirits. While numbers are desirable, they are not necessary to the uplifting of the standard of rebellion. The more violent and bitter the revolt, the fewer souls are necessary to interpret it; the more constitutional the action, the greater the number its effective interpretation demands. Our activities to-day are constitutional, and we require the greater numbers to make them felt in the political world.

At the present time we are seeking by every means in our power to collect evidence of the numbers who support our demand for immediate legislation. The chief means towards this end are found in devising and developing every method for the registration of the opinions of our supporters. By public meetings and demonstrations, by petitions, resolutions, and organised correspondence, we are seeking to bring to bear the force of numbers upon the trinity of Cabinet Ministers who stand in the way. The one aim of our immediate work is to add to the total, to heap up unit upon unit and score upon score and hundred upon hundred, so that the Ministry shall recognise the god of numbers, and bow to it and stand out of the way.

In Wales a special effort has been some time in operation to move the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Thousands and thousands of specially-printed postcards are being issued by the Freedom League to be signed by the Welsh people and despatched to the Treasury. Already some twenty places have been visited, and each place has added its quota to the grand total of personal appeals addressed to the Welsh Minister. Special donations have been given for this campaign, motor-cars have been promised, and speakers have volunteered. It is hoped by the end of the recess to have covered Wales from end to end. The Welsh people are with us, and are responding to our appeal. Their wishes must have effect upon Mr. Lloyd George. Some further moneys are required to make this campaign complete, and if these are forthcoming we look confidently to see the Chancellor "reconsider his position" in accordance with his speech at Criccieth.

The same force of numbers, especially from his own constituency, is to be brought to bear upon Mr. Winston Churchill. He, too, is one of the politicians for whom the god of numbers is a great god. We can be sure that a constant incoming of postcards from the Dundee electors, and from the Dundee women who ought to be electors, will produce a clearer understanding of the value of the Conciliation Bill in the Home Secretary's mind. Here, where in January Mr. Churchill committed himself to the opinion that "women at a loose end" were entitled to the Parliamentary vote, there should be found many people to remind him of the inconsistency of his present opposition to a measure which would secure that end and a little more. These numbers must be registered by the postcard campaign. And those patriotic Scots who desire to assist in the carrying through of a piece of good political work should assist by cheques or personal service the conversion of the Home Secretary. If the opposition of the two Radical Ministers is removed, the Prime Minister may be brought to raise the veto.

For the bringing to bear of the pressure of numbers upon the Prime Minister himself the whole country remains. Every branch of the League must do its share to make up a great total of direct appeals to the head of the Government. Ten or twenty thousands of friends' signatures could be collected in every large town. The poorest sympathiser can be called upon to add one to the whole, for the postcards being addressed to members of the Government at their official residences go post free. That great body of unorganised supporters which follows every movement can always be relied upon to register its opinion if the means are provided. The postcards provide the means, and the distributor of them must be forthcoming in every branch of the League during the remaining weeks before Parliament opens. It is not possible for the Prime Minister to stand against the force of numbers if it be great enough. We must make it great enough. For him and for his two Radical colleagues the numbers must be added to with every passing day. This is the one weapon that we can employ effectively now, and we must use it with all our strength.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

THE PAGEANT AT MIDDLESBROUGH.

Great success attended the appearance of the Women's Pageant at the Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough, on October 5th, under the auspices of the W.F.L., where, according to the daily Press, the audience included "a big list of patrons of all political opinions." Mr. George Bernard Shaw's "Press Cuttings," with an admirable cast, proved exceedingly amusing as a prelude to the Pageant. The latter was splendidly staged, and had been admirably rehearsed by Miss Edith Craig. Miss Cicely Hamilton (the author of the "book") impersonated Woman; while the unsympathetic part of Prejudice was played by Mr. Leonard Craske. Mrs. Despard and between eighty and ninety local ladies impersonated some of the noble figures of the pageant. Miss Olive Terry played the part of Justice. The marshalling of the wise, splendid, great, and saintly women of the past created a profound impression, and was greeted with rounds of applause.

FUR SUBSTITUTES

We have in stock a very large selection of imitation furs. These substitutes for Persian Lamb, Caracul, Musquash, and other furs are so skilfully produced as in many cases to be practically indistinguishable, without very close inspection, from real fur. They are very light in weight, warm and becoming, and of course much less expensive than the real furs of which they are such successful reproductions. The undermentioned is a typical example.



CRAVAT (as sketch), in black velvet, lined
 satin, in white, black, blue, rose, etc. 8/11
 Can also be had in imitation Musquash,
 Caracul, Persian Lamb, and Mole 10/6
 SENT ON APPROVAL.

Debenham & Freebody,
 Wigmore Street (Cavendish Square), London, W.
 Famous for over a Century for Taste, for Quality, for Value.

BRANCH NOTES.

LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL.—1, Robert Street Adelphi.

The Central Branch held their usual Sunday morning meeting on October 9th, in Regent's Park. Owing to indisposition, Mrs. de Vismes was, for the first time since the starting of the meetings, absent. Her place was taken by Mrs. Marianne C. Hyde, who opened the meeting with a few general remarks on the Conciliation Bill and the responsibility of the Government should they neglect the unmistakable wishes of the country, as voiced by the large majority at the second reading of the Bill. Mrs. Duval then addressed an ever increasing crowd, and urged strongly the need of protection for young girls. As very few questions were asked, we must conclude the audience was in favour of immediately giving votes to women.—M. C. H., for E. DE VISMES.

It was good to see so many Branch members at the mass meeting in Trafalgar Square on Saturday last, and to note that several of them were speaking on the various platforms. Afterwards we met at 1, Robert Street for the purpose of making nominations to fill vacancies on the N.E.C.

The committee for the public meeting on November 8th have been working hard over the preliminary arrangements, and fully deserve our best thanks; and we are very sorry that, although an able chairman and attractive speakers had consented to help us, this meeting has had to be abandoned temporarily, for in the week from November 7th-12th a suffrage mission—the idea of the N.U.W.S.S.—is to be held, and a large meeting will be organised each night by one or other of the well-known suffrage societies, culminating on the 12th in a great joint demonstration in the Albert Hall. Therefore the energies of every suffragist must be concentrated on these meetings, when we hope to show a bold and united front to our opponents.—E. G. T.

Crystal Palace and Anerley District.—149, Croydon Road.

On Monday, at the tram terminus, Miss Norris was our speaker, and dealt fully with the subject of "Votes for Women," displaying a keen sense of humour. Our stock of VOTES was sold out, and a collection taken. On the 17th we are hoping to have Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett and Mr. John Simpson, and we should be glad of volunteers for chalking in order that we may have an extra big meeting.—E. M. F.

Hornsey.—8, Church Lane.

On October 3rd Mrs. Tanner delivered a very impressive address, beginning with the influence of politics on the home, and finally dealing with the Conciliation Bill. Mr. Hawkins

again very kindly occupied the chair, but had prolonged difficulty to draw a crowd, as a downpour of rain on Saturday washed all the chalking away which resulted in a new crowd. It is found somewhat difficult for one person to try and sell VOTES and literature, take notes of speeches, and collection. A helper, who could sell literature or take notes and help to take a collection, is urgently needed. Mr. Hammond was a great help, but now unable to continue; but Mr. Hawkins has been and is invaluable.—M. S. S.

North Hackney.—114, Holmleigh Road, Stamford Hill.

We have had three very successful open-air meetings this week, addressed respectively by Mrs. Wheatley, Mr. Alfred Baker, and Miss Underwood. Miss Norris and Mr. Hammond kindly acted as chairmen. The attendance is increasing. Mrs. Hooper, of 119, Cazenove Road, has been good enough to promise to place her drawing-room at our disposal on the afternoon of November 1st for the inaugural meeting of the new North Hackney Branch of the Women's Freedom League. Will all friends and sympathisers desiring to be present kindly apply to Mrs. Cunningham, 114, Holmleigh Road, Stamford Hill, N.?

Hackney.—4, Clarence Road.

A very good meeting was held in Victoria Park on Sunday. The chair was taken by Miss Busby, who was followed by Mrs. Mustard. The speaker dealt extensively with the Conciliation Bill, and also pointed out the extravagant waste of money that is going on—a point which naturally appealed to the working man. At the end questions were put, which in most cases proved how closely the speaker had been followed. A collection was made, and a fair number of VOTES were sold.—E. E. B.

Northern Heights and Tottenham.—Merok, Great North Rd. Highgate, N.

Our indoor meetings commence on October 19th. These meetings will continue throughout the winter, on alternate Wednesdays, at Spears Memorial Hall, Highgate Hill, beginning at eight o'clock. The first will take the form of a social. Tea and coffee will be served at 7.30, and at eight o'clock Mrs. How Martyn will speak. All sympathisers and friends, both men and women, are cordially invited to this and the following meetings.—A. MITCHELL.

Croydon.—9, Morland Avenue.

On Friday we held a successful meeting at South Norwood Clock, when Miss Ethel Fennings dealt fully with the Conciliation Bill. There were numerous questions, and the resolution was passed with only three or four dissentients, who failed to justify their attitude when asked to do so.

At Thornton Heath Clock on Saturday Miss Fennings was again the only speaker. THE VOTE sold well at both meetings.—E. M. F.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT.—Hon. Organiser: Miss Manning, B.A., Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire.

Branches: Manchester Central, Eccles, Urmston, Sale.
 "You want votes for women householders. Then follow the crowd to Alexandra Park on Saturday, October 8th, at 3.30 p.m." So ran our invitation to Manchester citizens to attend the joint demonstration in Alexandra Park on Saturday last. The crowd came, at first slowly, then in a continuous stream of hurrying figures, until an audience some thousands strong had assembled round our six platforms, at which the speakers were as follows:—

W.F.L.—Mr. S. Allen, Miss Neal, Miss Manning, B.A.

W.S.P.U.—Miss Lillian Williamson, B.A., Miss Annie Rose, Miss Capper.

Men's League.—Councillor S. Brooke, Councillor James Johnston, Mr. Clancy.

Men's Political Union.—Mr. Gryffin, Mr. Ambrose Carney.

Women Workers.—Mrs. Maud Gordon, Miss Clark (of Sheffield), Miss Annot Robinson.

Education.—Mr. G. C. Wilkinson, Miss Bertha Lee, Miss Janet Heyes.

The field looked very gay with the bright flags and banners. One one side of the flagstaff stood the W.F.L. platform, with its green, white, and gold, and opposite that of the W.S.P.U., with its familiar tri-colour, each bearing also the Manchester banner of the two societies; the Education platform flaunted the colours of both societies; whilst the Women Workers' platform was decorated with the red and white banner of the National Association of Midwives and the beautifully-worked banner of the Fawcett Debating Society. At this platform the Upholsterers', Leather Workers' and Cigarette Makers' Unions were also represented. In spite of the fact that the leaders of the "antis" were amongst the audience, and devoted themselves to the Men's League in particular, the resolution was carried, with but few dissentients, at each platform, and close upon 2000 postcards to Mr. Asquith were signed. Such successful demonstrations are not carried through without much preliminary work. During the week the whole of the thickly-populated district surrounding the park had been visited by house-to-house canvassers; women and men had chalked the streets white; and on Friday morning Gladstone's statue in Albert Square and Queen Victoria's, in Piccadilly, looked down upon an advertisement in letters a foot long—the handiwork of the Men's Political Union. Our grateful thanks are due to all who devoted so much time to the advertising of the demonstration, but specially to Miss Capper (W.S.P.U.), Mr. Ambrose Carney (Men's Political Union), and Mr. Capper (Men's League), for their very able organisation of the districts assigned to them. Our chief regret

with regard to the demonstration was that Miss Eunice Murray, whose fortnight's campaign in the district had such a successful culmination, could not be with us to see the fruits of her labours.

On Monday afternoon Miss Murray spoke at an "At Home," given by Mrs. Rose Hyland, at "Holly Bank," Victoria Park. A good attendance, a good address, and a good collection are the three factors in a successful suffrage meeting, and these we had. In the evening Mrs. McMurray was our hostess, Miss Neal and Miss Murray were the speakers, and another good meeting was held.

On Tuesday a dinner-hour meeting was held outside the Linotype Works, Broadheath, when Miss Murray was again speaker, and Miss Page (Sale) acted as chairman. On Tuesday evening we divided our forces. At Eccles Cross Miss Neal and Miss Heyes spoke at a mass meeting organised by the Eccles Branch. The crowd was a large and enthusiastic one, and a unanimous resolution, calling upon the Government to grant facilities to the Conciliation Bill, was passed. Meanwhile the Old School, Crab Lane, Higher Blackley, was crammed to overflowing with a sympathetic audience. On this occasion Mr. Taylor (of the School House) took the chair, and Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Manning were the speakers. Although this was the first suffrage meeting held in Higher Blackley, the resolution was passed with scarcely a dissent, and a good collection was taken. The success of this meeting was due to the kind offices of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, who took the whole responsibility for it.

On Wednesday two dinner-hour meetings were held in Patri-croft—one in Cawdor Street, by Miss Manning, and one near Naysmith's, by Miss Eunice Murray. In the evening an "At Home" was held in the Unitarian Schools, Monton Green, when Miss Murray, the Rev. Neander Anderton, Miss Manning, and Miss J. Heyes were the speakers. The cotton crisis caused a great reduction in our numbers, but a most enjoyable evening was spent, and four new members joined the Branch. As a result of the fortnight's campaign, seventeen new members have joined the League. We are now looking forward to October 26th, when Mrs. Despard visits Manchester. In the afternoon Mrs. Despard will open the Shop in Sale, and in the evening a public meeting will be held in the Gaskell Hall, Long-sight. A sale of work will be held in the Shop in the afternoon, and Miss Geiler, "Thornlea," Wardle Road, Sale, will be pleased to receive gifts of cake, jam, sweets, needlework, &c. May I take this opportunity of thanking, on behalf of the Manchester Organisation Committee, all those who have helped in a hundred ways to make the last fortnight's work successful? It would be impossible to do so individually, but our thanks are none the less sincere.—M. E. MANNING.

EAST SUSSEX.—Mrs. Dilks, 39, Milton Road Eastbourne.

Eastbourne.—39, Milton Road.

Our weekly members' meetings have recommenced. The first was held last Monday, when we had a very fair attendance. It was entirely business, the secretary giving an account of the finances from the summer campaign, and we also discussed the agenda for the conference. We intend taking various aspects of the suffrage question at these weekly meetings, and in this way we hope to find some new speakers. During the summer campaign we have to report ten new members. As the autumn is so full of meetings, concerts, and other attractions, we think we had better concentrate on small meetings, and hope for a large one in the New Year.

We intend varying the meetings by sometimes having an afternoon one for those who cannot come in the evenings. The subject for next week's meeting is "The Industrial Position of Women."—A. DILKS.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT.

Waterloo.—49, Kimberley Drive, Great Crosby.

A public meeting will be held in the Olive Hall on Tuesday, October 25th, at 8 p.m. Speakers, Mrs. Despard and Miss Janet Heyes. Members from Liverpool, Bootle, Birkdale, Formby, &c., will have no difficulty in finding the hall, which is one minute's walk from the South (Walmer Road) entrance to Waterloo Station.

Helpers who will distribute handbills, sell literature, or act as stewards are cordially invited to communicate with Mrs. Evans, at above address. Who will volunteer?—J. A. E.

Wellingborough.

On Wednesday, October 5th, our new Branch was inaugurated, and I hope and believe it will be a most useful nucleus for propagating our views. Miss Lilley, of "Archfield," is our local treasurer; Mrs. England Smith, of "Newstead," Hatton Park, and Miss Violet Sharman, of "Ivy Lodge," are our joint secretaries; while Miss Gertrude Wyliders, of "Rose Hill," is our literature secretary. Our membership roll numbers twenty-one, and these twenty-one are all keen suffragettes, and will soon be bringing in more members. Branch meetings are to be held fortnightly. By way of preparation for serious advertising work, two of our new members accompanied me on a chalking expedition on Friday evening, when we advertised THE VOTE all over the town:—
"BUY THE VOTE." One penny weekly. The Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Great interest was shown in our work, and in this way these two members got over the first shyness of public work. Wellingborough sympathisers are asked to communicate with one of the two hon. secretaries.—MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY, Organizer.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

Glasgow Office: 302, SAUCHIEHALL STREET, GLASGOW.
Office Secretary: Miss McARTHUR.
Hon. Treasurer: Miss BUXTEN.
Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.

Glasgow.

A public meeting will be held in the Athenæum on October 22nd, at 8 p.m., in conjunction with the Women's Social and Political Union. Mr. Brailsford will be the principal speaker of the evening. Tickets, price 2s. 6d. (reserved), 1s., and 6d., to be had at Suffrage Centre.

Edinburgh.—Shop and headquarters, 33, Forrest Road.

Hon. Secretary, Miss A. B. JACK. Hon. Treasurer, Miss M. A. WOOD.

We have now entered upon the work of what promises to be a very busy and interesting winter session. The syllabus is a very full one, especially for November, and for its successful carrying out we depend upon the loyal co-operation of every member. Much ignorance still prevails outside, and the first condition of its being dispersed is that everyone inside shall be fully alive to the duties and responsibilities of membership. Such was the text of the president's address, delivered by Miss Sara Munro on Wednesday, when we held the first evening "At Home" of the session. There was not, unfortunately, such a large attendance as we could have wished for, partly owing to a meeting addressed by Mr. Keir Hardie at the same time, so the president's message is now passed on to those who were absent. One immediate result was that several ladies volunteered to visit regularly a certain number of members and others likely to be interested. Great results are hoped for.

The Tuesday afternoon "At Home" was an informal one. On the suggestion of Miss MacGregor, it was agreed to send a letter to Mr. Balfour, thanking him for past support and asking that he would make some statement on the subject in his speech the next day. (No such statement, of course, was made, and no answer has so far been received.) Thereafter Mr. MacLachlan, a sympathiser who had visited the Shop earlier in the day, and had been induced to return, gave a short speech. His friendly criticism of the militant tactics from a man's point of view gave rise to considerable discussion.

Preparations for Mr. Brailsford's meeting on October 24th and for Mrs. Despard's meeting on November 9th are now being carried on. Miss Eva Jolly, M.A., is ticket secretary for the former, and Miss Mabel Roy for the latter. Volunteers are wanted for speaking, chalking, bill-distributing, and, above all, VOTE-selling, while those who cannot come out to do these things can help to lighten our financial responsibilities by working for the sale on November 5th.—HELEN McLACHLAN, Ass't. Sec.

Dundee.—34, Rankine Street.

On Thursday last the Dundee Branch held an "At Home," to which friends and all interested were invited. Miss Husband presided over a full attendance. Mr. Percy Sturrock gave a very interesting address on "The Position of Women Under the Law in Scotland." A lawyer himself, Mr. Sturrock was on thoroughly familiar ground, and briefly traced the gradual development of the laws affecting women, from the Roman occupation to the present day. The laws relating to husband and wife, the disposal of heritable and movable estate, the guardianship of children, bastardy, divorce, Factory Acts, &c., were ably treated by Mr. Sturrock. The various extensions of the municipal franchise to women and the woman's representation on public bodies were also instanced. The hope was expressed that ere long, by the passing of the Conciliation Bill, the means would be extended to women of participating in all affairs, both local and Imperial, and that they would indeed have all the rights of a citizen. As Mr. Sturrock pointed out, the laws are not fixed and stationary. In the years to come they will be altered and modified, as they have been in the past, and it will be interesting to witness the nature of the changes, especially when the Parliamentary franchise will give women the necessary lever to effect these changes. A discussion followed.

It was intimated that the members of the Dundee Town Council and Trades Council had passed a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill.

Tickets and bills for the joint meeting of the various suffrage societies, to be addressed by Mr. H. N. Brailsford, on the 21st inst., were distributed to members, who were urged to make the meeting a great success.

On Friday and Saturday of this week Miss Munro is to address open-air meetings in Dundee.—J. A. SMART, Hon. Press Secretary.

Kilmarnock, Ayrshire.

On Friday, September 30th, we held a social evening in the Temperance Hall, when Miss Semple, of Glasgow, gave a very interesting and instructive address that was heard by an audience all women. There were a good number of fresh faces amongst them; and the chair was taken by Mrs. D. Ross, our president, who gave all a hearty welcome, and hoped that out of the audience we should gain members for the Branch. Miss Semple, in her address, appealed to all to use their influence, and do something, as all can, to push the women's question at least a little; and we are going to put into practice the good advice given. We are starting the winter's work by holding meetings regularly every fortnight. Up to the present, meetings have not been regular, so anyone interested did not know where to come, but we hope to improve in the future.—H. COWAN.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE MEETING.

(Continued from page 293.)

Mr. Laurence Housman.



MR. LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

Mr. Housman spoke as follows: This afternoon we are met in support of what is called the Conciliation Bill, and not only to support it, but to demand that it shall be passed into law during the autumn session. No Suffragist contends that this is a perfect Bill, and I think that the Suffrage Societies have more reason to complain of that Bill than any other party, because it offers less than they asked for. The Suffrage Societies have asked for equal political rights for the sexes, that women shall have the Vote upon the same qualifications that enable men to have it. The Conciliation Bill does not concede that principle; it is merely a stepping stone towards its recognition. You cannot get from an imperfect democracy perfect Bills. As reasonable people, we accept this Bill with all its imperfections, because we believe that it is the best that the present House of Commons is willing to give us. That Bill does not give us equality, but it does lessen a very great inequality; and I think you will agree that any Bill that aims at removing any great and grievous inequality is in itself democratic. That Bill is the best Bill that the House of Commons is likely to pass.

The Democratic Bill.

In the last House of Commons (where there was a much larger Liberal majority than to-day) a more extended measure, Mr. Howard's Bill, was brought before Parliament, and only secured a majority of thirty-seven. For that Bill only one member of the Cabinet voted, so it is not very encouraging to Suffragists to bring in a bigger Bill. The Conciliation Bill is framed on the lines of that granting the municipal Franchise, and it is rather late in the day for Mr. Lloyd George to suddenly discover the worthlessness of a Bill under which women have voted for the last twenty-five years or more without any voice being raised against it because it was undemocratic. Supposing we now tried to bring in a bigger and more extended Bill, we should probably lose eighty-seven Conservative members who support the Conciliation Bill, and might gain an extra seven supporters from the Liberal side who strongly favour Adult Suffrage and do not like what they call a limited Bill. So we should forfeit a great amount of support that we cannot afford to lose. In suggesting that we should risk this, Mr. Lloyd George is practically asking us to offer a Bill which would certainly be defeated in the House of Commons, and the cause would be put back at any rate for two years. That is exactly what he wants. The House of Commons is expressly representative of the people's will, and whatever you are most likely to get through the House of Commons is also what is most likely to express the present mind of democracy. The democracy is not perfect: it has a great many faults and imperfections, and it is not quite ripe for doing justice to women. But we have evidence that it is ripe for giving us this Bill; and any Bill is democratic that represents at the time democratic opinion. That Bill is democratic if the democracy is willing to pass it. If Mr. Lloyd George can bring in and carry a better Bill, let him give it us. In the debate on the Conciliation Bill he complained of its limited character, and also that it was not capable of amendment. It was not capable of amendment in an extended direction outside occupiers, that is, it would not admit of amendments which would serve their purpose of wrecking the Bill. Mr. Lloyd George, however, was challenged on this matter by Mr. Philip Snowden, who said that if Mr. Lloyd George would engage that time be given for a Bill which would admit of all such amendments he would arrange that such a Bill be brought in; but Mr. Lloyd George sat dumb on his seat and said nothing. Mr. Lloyd George is all the time offering women nothing, while he is suggesting that they should consider a bigger Bill, which would probably be deferred until after the matters which interest the Chancellor—Welsh Disestablishment, Home Rule, and any other things he can invent—are settled. Mr. Lloyd George is shrewd enough to know that Woman's Suffrage will become an established fact, that women are not going to be governed for ever without their consent; but he does not mind how much longer they are kept disfranchised. He knows that their demand is getting stronger and stronger, that they are bound to win, and that if they do not get their rights to-day, they are bound to do so two or three years hence. He would then like to ride into power on the backs of the women over Mr. Asquith. This he thinks he can do if the movement is kept back until the psychological moment when it would suit him to make good his claim for position and power. All the same, if Mr. Lloyd George wants this bigger Bill, our Bill will not prevent his attempt to get it passed. Let him draft it, and we will give it all the consideration that it deserves.

Bill not Bureaucratic Enough.

But the real objection of Mr. Lloyd George is not that the Conciliation Bill is not democratic enough, but that it is not

bureaucratic enough to please the present bureaucratic notions of the gentlemen now in power—the Liberal Government. It serves the interest of no party. Every single party in Parliament has had to give up something. It is a very moderate measure, and will enfranchise perhaps under 1,000,000 women to begin with. It will only give the Vote to householders and what are called occupiers. However little you pay in rent, and your dwelling may be a hovel or a tenement, whatever in fact you can turn a key on, you could claim a vote under this Bill. You could also claim a vote if you occupied an office for business purposes. And it is upon that part of the occupier qualification that Mr. Lloyd George bases his charge of the possibility of plural voting. The occupier vote is only about five per cent. of the total, and Mr. Lloyd George was perfectly free to move an amendment on this head, and if he had been in earnest about the matter that qualification could have been removed, then it would not have been possible to have any woman plural voter on the register. Mr. Lloyd George is simply sinning against knowledge in making the statements he has recently made in regard to this Bill. Yet Mr. Lloyd George says he believes in Women's Suffrage. I think he means that he believes in women's votes, and hopes at the psychological moment to use them as angels' wings to get to power. But we believe in Women's Suffrage because we believe in the value to the State of woman's knowledge and experience. We would accept only 500,000 women voters for that reason, if we could get nothing else. The woman's vote will go down to the fundamental nature of things; we shall get the expression of motherhood in the State. This beginning of woman's influence in the State would be like the light of dawn, not enough yet to read by perhaps, but enough to kindle the face of everything turned eastward. It would light the face of every woman who believes she ought to be represented to-day. To give only 500,000 women a vote would mean the uplifting of the whole status of womanhood.

The Oldest Property Qualification.

Practically any man can, if he takes the trouble, and is decently sober and industrious, claim a vote. Even those who have no vote are very largely represented by their own class. We live to-day under what you might call an industrial qualification, and yet in so far as every voter has a voice in the taxation of and legislation for women without their consent, he has a property qualification in regard to women, the power of the man over the woman; and it is against that oldest property qualification that we are fighting to-day. It is very hard to get rid of; it is very hard indeed to persuade a benevolent tyrant that freedom is better than slavery; to make an ordinary man who does his best for his women folk realise that women prefer to think and to act for themselves. He is very much inclined to ask, "Why are women troubling to get a vote?" But the very best and the wisest things that men can do will only be the expression of one-half the human race; and we say, "Let the women, who understand themselves, have some direct voice in the legislation of their country."

The Osborne Judgment.

At the present moment there is some trouble among Labour members of Parliament. They do not like the Osborne judgment, and one way out of the difficulty is the suggested payment of members of Parliament. But women have already had to pay for political corruption. Into places where corruption has been reported Commissioners have been sent, and the heavy charges have fallen upon the rates, which women as well as men have to pay. Now women are to be asked not only to pay taxes and obey laws which are made without their consent, but also to pay the members of Parliament for passing those laws. I do not think that the spirit of women will stand that! Mr. F. E. Smith, who is a strong Anti-Suffragist, would support the payment of members of Parliament because he is opposed to the reversal of the Osborne judgment. He said in effect the other day that, if the Labour Party's campaign succeeded in reversing this decision, and in forcing men to pay for the political creed of their opponents, England would cease to be a free country. We can reply that if Mr. F. E. Smith's campaign succeeded in forcing women to pay for Mr. F. E. Smith's opposition, then England would cease to be a free country. But I claim that this country cannot be called a free country until women have the same freedom as the men. In the past, men had to fight very hard for their liberties; unfortunately, they have not to fight for them now. Women have to do that at present, and they are keeping alive the best traditions of England. English women are leading. England is still coming out top for the women of this country are ahead of all others in this struggle for freedom. It is said that Englishmen love liberty. They have done so in the past; yet unless they love liberty not only for themselves, but for others also, they have not really any love of liberty, but they have a lust of liberty. There will be no real liberty in this country, no free freedom, until men here insist that their women shall be as free as themselves.

PRICES WILL ADVANCE AGAIN!!

DO NOT DELAY. BUY!!!

Stove Cabbles ... 18/6 Special House ... 22/6 Best Household 23/6
Roaster Nuts ... 20/- Large Kitchen ... 19/6 Silkstone ... 24/6

William CLARKE & SON,

341, GRAY'S INN ROAD, KING'S CROSS, W.C.
95, QUEEN'S ROAD, BAYSWATER, W.
Phones: 628 North, 1582 North, 720 Western, 565 Paddington, &c., &c.
DELIVERIES EVERYWHERE.

Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Hon. Sec. Men's League.

The Men's League for Women's Suffrage, declared Mr. Mitchell, was formed on the idea that the enfranchisement of women would be good for the woman and good for the State. "Our self-governing colonies of New Zealand and Australia have realised this. Women are owners of property and workers in the labour market. In both these cases men have the protection of the Vote and women have not. Some time ago brewery shareholders were said to be threatened by what was known as the Licensing Bill. They had the power to work against this through their representatives in Parliament. No doubt there were some women who had brewery shares. Can it be suggested that their interests did not require protection? Then why should women who own land be without the protection of a vote? Men are in the position to protect their interests and property, and there is no reason or justice in denying that protection to women."

We have before the country a Bill couched in the most moderate terms. It would do away with this present anomaly in the franchise law, and would mete out some justice to women. Conservatives, Liberals, and Labour men have sunk all other differences to enable this Bill to go through. It was passed by a majority of 110, but is vetoed by Mr. Asquith, the man whom I once used to recognise as the leader of democracy. He has chosen to say in effect, "I will not give time for this Bill because I do not like it." We should not complain if the House of Commons did not like it; but this Bill went through the House with a majority of 110. Yet Mr. Asquith, who has more time on his hands than any Prime Minister of recent years owing to the death of our lamented King, is saying, "I will not give time for this Bill to be further discussed!" This is the attitude adopted by a democratic Prime Minister, who is constantly saying that democracy should rule! We say that democracy is threatened not nearly so much by the House of Lords as by our present Prime Minister, and I call upon all men here to earnestly and seriously consider that the most cherished of your public institutions are in grave peril if you allow this act of personal prejudice to be recorded in your political annals. You will have forfeited your right to be considered citizens of a free country. The Conciliation Bill has nothing in it of a party character; it is backed by a committee of all parties, and passed in a free House by a majority of 110. We do not ask that Government business shall be stopped because of it, but say that, if necessary, the House of Commons shall sit four or five days longer in the session to carry it through.

PLATFORM VII.—REFORMERS.**Miss Margaret McMillan.**

Miss Guttridge was in the chair, and having explained the terms of the Conciliation Bill, she called upon the speakers to give the reformers' standpoint towards the Bill.



Miss MARGARET McMILLAN.

Miss Margaret McMillan pointed out that the Cabinet knew very well that one-sided government would have to go, that the women of this country must have a share in its government. Mr. Haldane, speaking at a large meeting recently, had been asked "where the line was to be drawn in women's work," and he had answered quite frankly and gravely that the line could not now be drawn anywhere. The women of the country, continued Miss McMillan, had had to take such a large share in its work that it was now too late for them to step back, since that work must go on. She could not think that any man or woman was satisfied with the way in which things were done to-day. Referring to her own present work of endeavouring to cope with disease among the children of the elementary schools, Miss McMillan said that, as a matter of fact, they were beginning at the wrong end, treating, not the causes of disease, but its effects. She would venture to say that if the women of this country had shared in the making and administration of the laws, the present terrible suffering of the children would never have become a fact. Much of the disease among school children was preventable at a very small cost, and would be prevented if women had a share in determining how education should be carried out. It was not so much that women had been kept out of public life, as that they had never been properly allowed to enter it. Miss McMillan believed that the great women's societies, now growing at such a pace, would put an end to many of the greatest evils and injustices which existed. She had unbounded faith in the women—just as her hearers had faith in their own mothers, so she had faith in the Mother in Society and in the administration. Calling on her audience to embrace the privilege of helping the women in the hour when their victory was not yet accomplished (although it was practically won), Miss McMillan reminded them that, twenty years ago, the stones of the very place where they were gathered were stained with the blood of the workers. The time might come, if they were not in earnest, when the stones of London would be stained with women's blood. But they could prevent that. The women would stop at nothing; they were not afraid of death: they were afraid of nothing but failure. The

responsibility for preventing any kind of terrible tragedy was laid upon the men and women of this country.

Dr. L. Haden Guest.

Dr. L. Haden Guest, speaking as a Medical Inspector of Schools, who was accustomed to take notice of a great many things which in the ordinary way men did not notice—dirt, for instance, and all kinds of bad organisation—asked, did his hearers suppose that if women had equal influence with men in the Councils of Education in London, these bad things would be allowed to go on? How much influence in the making of these laws and conditions had the women who brought their children to the doctor? Take the question of Poor Law administration. Only a few years ago all the Poor Law institutions of this country were very much worse managed than now, before the women's point of view had come in, and in every department of life the same thing was found. There were in London many thousands of improperly clothed children, many thousands improperly fed and improperly washed. These children might have free food, baths, and clothing provided for them. None of these things had been done, not because of the money, for there had been two inspections of schools instituted, which were very expensive. The money they had used and were going to use for medical inspection might have been spent on food and clothing. It was necessary to approach this question in a woman's way—in a human and commonsense way. This was the invaluable contribution which women would bring to politics. They could not get on in London at the present time properly with their medical inspection, because they had not the women's point of view adequately brought into their work. For that reason, said Dr. Guest, he was very glad to stand there in support of the women's claim. He would support any Bill which would give women the Vote, so long as it was conferred as a matter of principle and not merely of expediency. Some said they were not in favour of the Conciliation Bill because it did not go far enough, but he would say that if the people of this country were not prepared to pay their debt to their women in instalments, they would not pay it at all. People who opposed limited measures of any kind did not mean business. Our social system at the present time was very much like an "ugly duckling" that had only one wing—a masculine wing. That "ugly duckling" should have electric treatment; it should have its other wing exercised, so that it could walk straight and fly straight, and then that "ugly duckling" would grow into a swan. As doctors, they knew at the present time how to abolish most of the infectious diseases, how to remedy almost all physiological defects, how to abolish consumption, but they had not the power to apply that knowledge. It was not easy to attack social evils. It was not a man's task alone; it was a task in which the men and women must join together. We must have social changes. So long as women were in an inferior position, so long would that inferiority be a drag upon men, and delay social reform.

Mr. Fenner Brockway, I.L.P.

Mr. A. Fenner Brockway said as a member of the Independent Labour Party he wished to bring the greetings of his Party to the women's movement. Though the Labour Party, as far as the question of Suffrage was concerned, was in favour of adult Suffrage, and the Independent Labour Party believed that every man and every woman should be able to exercise his or her right to vote, and wished to abolish the barriers between classes, they also believed in the abolition of the sex barrier. They felt that men had no right to say to the women, "You must remain outside the political sphere until we have made it more democratic." The women who were outside could only logically make one demand—to come inside, and therefore, if they believed in adult Suffrage, the women must first obtain political power themselves. Women were welcomed to do the drudgery of political work, while the men pretended that they did not want them to come into the political sphere because politics were not of that fine order with which they associated women. It sometimes occurred to him, Mr. Brockway said, how strange it was that they should so take for granted the present condition of affairs. If they went right back to the early states of public bodies, to the first forms of government, they would find that the only reason why women were kept out of political life was the reason that in those times government had merely to do with warfare, and did not enter the home, did not touch the social question at all. But more and more, public bodies and Parliaments had had to deal with social conditions and the home-life of the people and less and less with warfare. This was the first reason to-day why it was absolutely essential that the women's point of view should be represented on public authorities. The second reason was that, just as they had public bodies dealing more and more with social questions, with home-life, and with industrial conditions, they had women coming more into social and industrial life. They might deprecate that as much as they liked, but women had entered the industrial sphere, never to be taken out of it again. As they had the trades unions, the great labour movement in this country, representing the wishes and desires of the workers, so they must have the women's part in industry represented. This thing was bound to come; it was as inevitable as the movement of the stars in the heavens. It would come more rapidly if the voice of the people of this country were given in its behalf, if they would put their enthusiasm into the women's movement. The time must come when the vote would be won—the great power which would enable them, men and women, to go on hand in hand in the work of social reconstruction.

OUR TOUR IN AUSTRALIA.

By MURIEL MATTERS.
(Concluded from last week.)

Returning to Melbourne, two more lectures were given under the auspices of the W.P.A., with Miss Goldstein in the chair on each occasion. At the second lecture the following resolution was carried with acclamation:

"That the Women's Political Association thanks Miss Muriel Matters for having given Australian people, whose minds have been poisoned by cablegrams misrepresenting the Suffragette movement, the facts about the movement, and asks Miss Matters to assure her militant colleagues that this Association always has supported, and always will support, the brave women who are ready to risk their own lives in the attempt to win for all women the means of self-protection, and recognition of the mother as the chief factor in moulding national character—the only sure foundation of national greatness."

From Dr. Strong, the head of the Australian Church, came an invitation to speak from his pulpit on Sunday, July 24th. My subject was "Prison Reform, and Individual Responsibility for Corporate Sin." That night I spoke in the Gaiety Theatre to a crowded audience, under the auspices of the Socialist Party, and they, too, carried a resolution to the strains of the "Marseillaise." The meeting was great and inspirational. This was the resolution:

"That this mass meeting of Melbourne citizens expresses its hearty endorsement of the 'Votes for Women' crusade, and trusts that the justice of the Suffragists' demand will speedily meet with legislative recognition."

We had another opportunity of meeting the Prime Minister and his colleagues, and they gave us the promise of a resolution from the Federal Parliament in support of Women's Suffrage. I hope ere this reaches you the news will be cabled home.

On our return to Adelaide, we had another successful meeting, and we helped to organise the local women by forming them into departmental groups. To facilitate matters we waited on the Premier (Mr. Verran) and submitted a programme for the future, for which we have his promised assistance. The ease with which the Australian women can approach the politicians and have their wants attended to is conclusive proof of the power of the woman voter. If the women here do not get the necessary reforms it will be their own fault—but they are getting them, though much of the burden falls on the shoulders of too few. Attempts have been made in each State to introduce the C.D. Act. The women have frustrated these attempts, though cleverly disguised under clauses in the Health Acts. The literature we brought out on this subject has been most acceptable in Victoria, where the matter was of recent urgency.

We left Adelaide on August 12th, arriving in West Australia once more on August 16th. In His Majesty's Theatre yesterday (Sunday, August 21st), some thousands of people met in sympathy with the tramway strikers. I spoke amongst others, and a vote of thanks was passed for our assistance. This strike has brought to a climax, and will mean the end of, the company control. Nationalisation of the tramway will follow. In this country the progressive forces have it, and the reactionaries are going to the wall. The democratic ideal is the one towards which the Australians are moving. Here Democracy is more than a theory; it is fast becoming a reality. Last night hundreds were turned away from the Trades Hall, when we held a meeting on "The Demand of the British Women—What It is." In each State we have got subscribers to THE VOTE, and brought the Women's Freedom League prominently before the Australian public. We sail for England on September 13th by the White Star liner "Runic." Meanwhile, greetings to you all.

We regret to have to announce that, returning from a successful meeting at Port Talbot, Mrs. Cleaves, Mrs. Vulliamy, Mrs. Sproson, and Mr. Hyde were thrown out of the dog-cart, Mrs. Cleaves alone being badly hurt, by the broken shaft after falling, but we are glad to hear she is progressing favourably.

WILLIAM OWEN.

Fine
Venetian
Cloth Coat,

AS ILLUSTRATION,

for Day or Evening
wear. Lined Silk, and
interlined, 52 inches
long. Made in all pas-
tel shades, also black.



Price

35/9

WILLIAM OWEN, LTD., Westbourne Grove, London, W

TREASURER'S NOTE.

At the time of writing I have not yet had details from the other bands of workers who contributed to the success of the Trafalgar Square demonstration on Saturday, but I wish at once to thank the collectors who gave their services, and to tell them that, owing to their energy and enthusiasm, the collection was twice as large as any we have ever had before at an open-air meeting.—
CONSTANCE TITE.

We call the attention of our readers to the reading to be given by Mr. Laurence Housman of his censored play, "Pains and Penalties," at the Bechstein Hall, Saturday evening, October 29th, at 8. Prices of admission, 10s. 6d., 5s., and 2s. 6d. The proceeds go to the funds of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage. See advertisement on cover.

BARGAINS.**PHOTO ENLARGEMENTS,**

Beautiful Productions, 12 by 15. Send P.O. for
3/- along with Photo.

Set of Carvers and Steel.

In Box. Sheffield make. Silver Plated. 5/6.

GRAMOPHONE (Hornless).

Inlaid Mahogany. Worth £9; our price, £7.
Marvellous value.

The above can be inspected at the Office of THE VOTE,
148, Holborn Bars, London, E.C.

HALLCHURCH & CO., Household Specialists,
301, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

MODERN ARTISTIC DRESS

NOTICE OF REMOVAL TO

"The Studio," 34, Baker Street, W.

Mora Puckle
Embroidered
Coats, Dresses
and Djibbahs
by



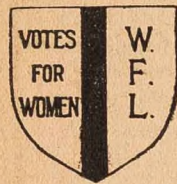
Marie Rochford
Handmade Hats
(very Light in Weight)
Toques and
Bonnets.

FIRTH AND MARSDEN,

Also at 16, JOHN DALTON STREET, MANCHESTER.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.



DARE TO BE
FREE.

- Thurs., Oct. 13.—Acton Market Place, 8 p.m. Mr. Simpson.
Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. Mrs. Toyne.
Fri., Oct. 14.—South Norwood Clock, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.
Corner of Amherst Park, 8. Mr. John Simpson.
1, Robert Street, 7.30. Members' Meeting. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn.
Sat., Oct. 15.—Finchley, opposite Church End Station, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Toyne.
Morland Road, East Croydon, 8 p.m. Miss E. Fennings and Mr. Simpson.
Sun., Oct. 16.—Victoria Park, 3 p.m. Mr. Simpson.
Regent's Park, 11.45. Mrs. K. Parkes, Mr. J. Simpson.
Mon., Oct. 17.—Hornsey Fire Station, 8 p.m. Miss Norris.
1, Robert Street, 7 p.m. Central Branch Meeting.
Crystal Palace Tram Terminus, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, Mr. John Simpson.
Tues., Oct. 18.—Highbury Corner, 8 p.m.
Manor Road, Stoke Newington, 8 p.m.
53, Dingwall Road, Croydon, 2.45 p.m. Needlework Party.
Wed., Oct. 19.—Spears Memorial Hall, Highgate Hill, 7.30 p.m.
Mrs. How Martyn.
Willesden Green, 7.30 p.m.
Oldhill Street, Clapton Common, 8 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 20.—Acton Market Place, 8 p.m. Miss Weir and Mrs. Wish.
London Branches Council, 6.45 p.m.
Highbury Corner, 8 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 21.—1, Robert Street. Members' Meeting, 7.30 p.m.
Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Snow.
South Norwood Clock, 7.30 p.m. Miss Gibbs.
Corner of Amhurst Park, Stamford Hill, 8 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 22.—Church End, Finchley, opposite Station, 7.30 p.m. Miss Guttridge.
Thornton Heath Clock, 7.30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 28.—W.F.L. Day, Small Queen's Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 1.—Inaugural Meeting of new North Hackney Branch, 110, Cazenove Road, Clapton, 4.30.
Thurs., Nov. 3.—First "At Home," Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Sproson.
Sun., Nov. 6.—Small Queen's Hall. Mrs. Despard's Lecture on "Shelley," 7.30 p.m. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d.
Fri. and Sat., Oct. 21-22.—Market Fête, Suffrage Atelier, Kensington. Tickets, 6d.

PROVINCES.

- SHEFFIELD.
Sat., Oct. 15.—The Pageant of Great Women.
IPSWICH.
Thurs., Oct. 20.—Public Hall. Pageant of Great Women.
CHESTER.
Mon., Oct. 24.—Assembly Hall, Newgate Street. Mrs. Despard and Miss Heyes. Chair, 8 p.m., H. F. Brown, Esq., LL.B.
MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT.
Wed., Oct. 26.—3 p.m., Opening of Shop and Sale of Work, Northenden Road, Sale. Mrs. Despard.
Gaskell Hall, Longsight, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Miss Manning.

SCOTLAND.

- EDINBURGH.
Tues., Oct. 18.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest Road, 4 p.m. "At Home."
Wed., Oct. 19.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest Road, 8 p.m. "Woman's Suffrage in New Zealand." Miss Meredith.
Mon., Oct. 24.—Oddfellows' Hall, Forrest Road. Joint Meeting of Suffrage Societies, 8 p.m. Mr. Brailsford and Miss Lees, "The Conciliation Bill."
DUNDEE.
Fri., Oct. 21.—Gilfillan Hall, 8 p.m. Joint Meeting. Mr. Brailsford. Chair, Rev. C. M. Grant, D.D.

AN INTERESTING MUNICIPAL CONTEST.

For the Women's Freedom League the coming municipal election at Middlesbrough should have especial interest, since it is a member of the Women's Freedom League, Mrs. Coates Hansen, who it is devoutly to be hoped will have the distinction of becoming the first "married woman" Town Councillor. In accordance with the provision of the Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils) Act of 1907 Mrs. Coates Hansen, a ratepayer and burgess of Middlesbrough, will contest the Newport Ward. No woman, so runs the Act, shall be disqualified (assuming that she has the other necessary qualifications) by reason of her sex or marriage from being elected or being a Councillor or Alderman.

Previous to the passing of the Act of 1907 the married woman, as concerns affairs municipal, was actually penalised by her entry into the high estate of matrimony; since, by an Act of 1882, she had been expressly excluded from the right of voting at municipal elections, a right the same Act conceded to the spinster. Now, however, neither sex nor marriage is to be a bar to office, but naturally few women whose husbands are alive find themselves on the rate-book and therefore entitled to be enrolled as burgesses. Thus it has fallen to Mrs. Coates Hansen to be the first to claim the right conceded to her class—with the co-operation, be it said, of her husband, who, with the object of testing and insisting on the married woman's claim to municipal office, has entered her name on the rate-book instead of his own, thereby forfeiting his Parliamentary vote! Once on the rate-book, Mrs. Coates Hansen demanded to be placed on the burgess list, and duly enrolled as a burgess, it remains now for her to be nominated for the Town Council.

If her nomination is accepted, and in the face of the clear provision of the Act of 1907 it is difficult to see how it can be refused, one hopes and believes that her prospects of success are bright, and if—as every good Suffragist will hope—she comes out at the top of the poll it will be no new experience for her. Mrs. Coates Hansen has twice fought for her seat on the Board of Guardians, and each time headed the poll in her ward, coming out on the last occasion first out of five candidates. May her third election be luckier still.

"Luckier," perhaps, is the wrong word to use, for if Mrs. Coates Hansen wins it will not be by a fluke, but because she has earned her victory. She is a worker, and not only at election times. She has the reputation, on the Middlesbrough Board, of being the champion of the widow—"widow mad," she has been called by colleagues not altogether in sympathy with her. And, to use her own words, she "has always contended that the representative should report to the elector." A good principle, and one she holds to firmly; witness her open-air meetings, held monthly in her ward, and well attended, even when snow lies on the ground. And it is good to know from her that she attaches no credence to the oft-told tale that women will not interest themselves in municipal affairs, since half of those who come to hear her make her monthly report on municipal affairs are women keenly interested, eager to be informed.

Floral Artists to
H.R.H. The Princess Christian.

**CHARLES WOOD
& SON**

(Successor CHAS. H. W. WOOD).

**23, HIGH ST., MANCHESTER SQUARE,
LONDON, W.**

Every Variety of Floral Work in Town or
Country. The Choicest Selection of Cut
Flowers and Plants.

Orders by post receive prompt attention.

Estab.
1850.

Phone
2324 Padd.

Estimates
Free

Window
Boxes, &c.