THE VOTE

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

Vol. V. No. 119.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1912.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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

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EDITORIAL.

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

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

The "Fractious Gee-gee."

Punch last week returned once more to Woman Suffrage, and in devoting a full-page cartoon to the Cabinet split, testified to the world at large the dominant importance of the question. The cartoon of a fortnight ago gave the coup de grace to the two voices issuing from the Cabinet on the public platform. The latest humorous aspect of the situation shows Mr. Asquith humorous aspect of the situation shows Mr. Asquith making an almost despairing appeal to the famous strike settler, Sir George Askwith. Sir George, as the "Fairy Peacemaker," stands triumphant over the dragon of the cotton strike. The Prime Minister, as "Master of the Horse" (otherwise the Cabinet), declares: "Now that you've charmed you dragon I shall need ye to stop the strike inside this fractious gee-gee." The fractious gee-gee, it may be noted, is an unruly animal with a broken back, which puts the rider in a perilous position: the uncontrollable legs. rider in a perilous position; the uncontrollable legs are endeavouring to go in contrary directions at the same time, and the weird head of this "property" horse wears a sardonic expression as if fully realising the predicament of the unfortunate rider whose feet are touching the ground and who keeps himself in position only by leaning heavily with one hand on the haunches, while with the other he clutches the bridle. The position of Mr. Asquith might cause pity did the women not remember the indignation aroused by the insult of the Manhood Suffrage Bill. Perish the women but preserve the party is not a safe cry nowadays. Even if an effort be made to mend the broken back of the fractious gee-gee by reintroducing the One Man One Vote Bill of the anti-Woman Suffragist Minister, Mr. Harcourt, un-complicated by the question of the women, the Govern-ment will still have to face its responsibility and re-members its pledges to women. We are in no mood to stand further trifling, or to be satisfied with the enticing suggestion that through the Plural Voting Bill we shall see how little men mind losing a few extra votes and so cease to hanker after such trifles ourselves.'

Workers and Suffrage.

The annual Conference of the Labour Party in Birmingham last week was preceded by the seventh annual Conference of the Women's Labour League. When the W.F.L. Conference met at the Caxton Hall last Saturday the length of the agenda paper surprised many members; but the Women's Labour League dealt with an agenda of no less than fifty resolutions, all of which had reference to the interests of women. Alderman Ben Turner, President of the Labour Party's Conference, greeted the women workers, and on the question of Suffrage expressed the conviction that Manhood Suffrage should not be accepted unless women were included. A similar statement, made in his Presidential address the following day, evoked loud applause, and was ultimately passed as an official resolution by a large majority. The attitude of the miners' delegates—that men should not refuse votes if all women did not get them, naturally aroused the indignation of Miss Mary. MacArthur, their comrade in many a fight. We see in this attitude a reason for the determined stand taken by the Pit-brow women against being dispossessed of their work. The question of trade jealousy is not new; women's help is welcome to a certain point, but when women begin to reap advantages, the masculine point of view alters. The miners may well learn a lesson from the Lancashire cotton workers who, according to the statement of Miss Eva Gore Booth to the Prime Minister, would not accept votes for all men if women were not included, and whose attitude would have made it impossible for a Manhood Suffrage Bill to have been introduced had the House of Commons been located in Lancashire.

Bravo, Norway!

Norway is forging ahead. A few days ago both sections of the Storthing adopted the Bill admitting women to appointments as public officials, and resolved to send the Bill to the King for his assent. Positions in the army, the Church, the Government, and as representatives abroad are still restricted to men, but there was considerable support for an amendment which removed such restrictions. The Bill will enable Norway to have women judges, and goes a long way towards establishing the equality of the sexes. Scandinavia is showing courage. Mr. Asquith should turn his eyes to the work of his Northern colleagues and give a straight answer to little Prince Olaf, who wanted to know why "Uncle George did not give the women the vote as we have done?"

The Censored "Coronation."

If there must be such an anomalous and ridiculous office as the censor of plays, why not make it a dual one and appoint a woman as well as a man? Then instead of censoring plays which hold up high ideals and licensing those of questionable intent—the Spring Chicken, for instance, or Dear Old Charlie by the Censor himself—as fit food for public morals, a reversed decision would be likely. We do not presume to judge of men's desires in this direction; they know what suits them best. But certainly women would not have banned such a piece as the Coronation, of which we give an account in another column, and Mr. Zangwill's message sums up the position: "Success to the Coronation. God save the King. God help the Censor!"

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

Conference Speaks.

The following resolutions were carried unanimously at the Annual Conference on January 27 :-

1. This Conference relies on Mr. Asquith to carry out his pledge to give facilities for the Conciliation Bill in 1912, and calls upon Members of Parliament to support this Bill through all its stages.

2. This Conference expresses its indignation at the proposal of the Government to introduce any Franchise Reform Bill without including women, and calls upon the Government to incorporate votes for women on equal terms with men in any such Bill.

3. This Conference calls upon Members of Parliament of all parties to vote against the Third Reading of any Bill dealing with Franchise Reform which does not include Women's Suffrage.

Our United Demand.

It is well that the public in general and Members of Parliament in particular should understand that Women Suffragists are united in their demand for "Votes for Women on the same terms as they are or may be granted to men." On whatever other questions of policy or tactics we differ, on that we are practically at one. We are constantly being informed that our compromise on the Conciliation Bill showed that we were prepared to be "satisfied" with much less than our original demand. Certainly neither the Women's Freedom League, nor any of the other important Suffrage Societies, will ever be satisfied with anything less than equality.

Possible Dangers.

The unscrupulous ways of politicians, however, compel us to protect ourselves as far as we can from their trickery. Mr. Asquith has said that the pledges for the Conciliation Bill still stand, unless-and herein lies a pitfall for the unwary—the promotors of the measure desire them to be withdrawn. Supposing this were done and the Government then decided to drop their proposed Franchise Bill with its promised chance of amendments (and, judging from past experience, a trick of this kind would not cause their well-disciplined consciences any uneasiness!) our question would be hung up until another Bill was framed and floated. It is to guard ourselves against any manœuvre of this description that we hold the Prime Minister to his pledges re the Conciliation Bill.

The Promised Amendments.

Three amendments are to be moved to the Franchise Reform Bill; one for Votes for Women on the same terms as men-really an Adult Suffrage amendment. Then Mr. Lloyd George is expected to move one on the Norwegian basis, enfranchising about seven million women; and in the last resource one on the lines of the Conciliation Bill will be proposed whereby one million women householders would be enfranchised.

Mr. Lloyd George's Proposed Wedding Gift.

None but the first of these, however, could be regarded as meeting the demand for sex equality. Mr. Lloyd George's proposal to give women the vote as a sort of State wedding present can never satisfy those who demand it as a human right, irrespective altogether of their relation to the other sex. The basis of

qualification on the lines of the Conciliation Bill would be unsatisfactory in the highest degree if the present basis for men were extended or altered in any way. As long as some men were voting on a household franchise, some women might do so, but to have all men voting on an entirely different qualification from women would be to create an invidious distinction between the sexes that would prove a source of perpetual dispute and illfeeling. "On the same terms" is our goal to-day as it was when we first began our agitation, and the Freedom League has no intention of retiring from active service in the franchise campaign until that goal is won.

Congratulations and Thanks.

If the Labour Party translates into vigorous action the splendid spirit shown at its Conference last week the end of our struggle may be much nearer than many of us have dared to hope. A resolution demanding the enfranchisement of all adult men and women in the coming Government Bill and requesting the Labour Party in Parliament to make it clear that no Bill will be acceptable to the Labour and Socialist movement which does not include women was passed by a large

The miners' delegates announced that they would vote against the resolution on the ground that it pledged the Labour Members to oppose a Bill giving Manhood Suffrage unless Woman's Suffrage were included in it. This attitude is particularly contemptible in a body of men whose struggles for better industrial conditions have cost their women so much, and yet whose women have co-operated so heartily with them and paid the necessary price so whole-heartedly and loyally. Miss Mary MacArthur—to whom the thanks of all Suffragists are due-pointed this out so eloquently and convincingly that when the final vote was taken it was carried by a triumphant majority.

The Responsibility of Power.

It is impossible to over-estimate the importance of this pronouncement, particularly in view of the position held by the Labour Party in the present Parliament. They form a very considerable part of the Government's majority. Forty-two in number, they count eightyfour on a division, and many times during the last Session the Government majority dropped below that figure. They can tip the scale as they choose almost on any division, and a declaration of uncompromising action on their part must bring the Government to terms. Let an intimation be given that the withdrawal of the proposed Bill and the substitution of one giving votes to women and men equally is the price of their support, and the Government will have to give in

The Chance of a Lifetime.

In taking this attitude the Labour Party need not fear that they will be retarding their own cause. Adult Suffrage is one of the most important items in their programme, and to neglect so excellent a chance of furthering it would merit severe condemnation from their supporters. It is not often that the opportunity of carrying out a long-delayed act of justice, and furthering their own desires at the same time comes in the way of a political party; the Labour Party should rejoice that fate has shown them this unique favour.

Rumours and Wrecks.

The rumour that the Government intends to drop the proposed Franchise Reform Bill and substitute Mr. Harcourt's "One Man One Vote" Bill still crops up in the Press, but it has not attracted any official confirmation or denial as yet. Meantime Suffragists are keenly on the watch. There is no fear that any way of escape will be left unguarded. The referendum boat - that was launched as we mated last week by the First Lord of the Admiralty with such secrecy and care—has come to grief. It encountered too many adverse winds. The Daily Chronicle and The Westminster have now the unenviable

task of intimating to the "hero of a hundred fights" that the game is up. On the whole he had better attend to his legitimate vessels; after all, he is paid pretty handsomely for his services in this direction.

MARION HOLMES

POLITICAL AND MILITANT WORK. The By-Elections.

It was reported in our last issue that the W.F.D. took no part in the Carmarthen Boroughs election, but immediately after going to press our Swansea Branch informed us that they had been able to send Mrs. Ross to Llanelly, and a special manifesto had been issued with the policy of the League, which was one of propaganda only. Mr. Llewellyn Williams has again been returned, and we are glad to remember he has a good Suffrage record and has consistently supported all our Bills

East Edinburgh.

W.F.L. Committee Rooms: 14 Broughton-street. Candidates :-

Candidates:—

Mr. J. M. Hogge (Liberal).

Mr. Jameson (Conservative).

Hon. Organiser-in-charge:—Miss J. H. Gibson.

Replies have now been received from the candidates in East Edinburgh. Mr. Jameson (Unionist) is in favour of a Referendum, as he declares that the present House of Commons has no mandate to deal with a matter of such "revolutionary" character. Mr. J. M. Hogge (Liberal) who is entirely in favour of a democratic amendment to the Reform Bill, will support the Conciliation Bill should such an amendment fail, and, most important of all, has now agreed to vote against the Third Reading of the Reform Bill should women be excluded (unless the Reform Bill is merely to deal with plural voting, Registration, &c.) We are, therefore, opposing the Unionist candidate. Miss Gibson is very kindly undertaking the work of organisation, which she did so successfully in Govan. A shop has been taken at 14, Broughton-street, and already its show of posters, literature, &c., attracts much attention. Several meetings are being held every evening, and Miss Alison Neilans will arrive on Thursday to speak on the eve of the poll.

H. McLachlan.

(p.p.) J. H. GIBSON.

WHAT ONE WOMAN CAN DO. THE GODALMING SCANDAL.

Our readers will remember the appalling case of child assault at Godalming, to which our member, Mrs. Brown Taylor, drew attention, and which was recorded in The Vote of November 11. A married man, twenty-eight years of age, confessed to committing an assault on a little girl seven and a-half years of age. The town was deeply stirred when this "abominable and atrocious crime," so described by the sentencing magistrate, which had been going on for six months, was punished by four months' hard labour-that is, two months less than the maximum sentence. On Monday last a public indignation meeting was held at Godalming, at which I was invited to speak. The devotion of one woman made the meeting possible. The necessary preliminary work and all arrangements, including the decoration of the hall, were carried out by her single-handed, and she expects not only to cover expenses, but to send a generous donation to the Freedom League. Although the seats were paid for, an excellent collection proved how deeply the large audience had been stirred by the case. The ex-Mayor, Mr. Alexander Munro, who tried the case, presided. One of the speakers declared that it would be better if wild animals roamed the streets, taking the children one by one by the brief agony of death, than that children should be exposed to the danger of this horrible degradation, for evidence can be brought forward to the effect that three other children suffered thus shamefully

at the hands of this man. Such men are moral lepers, and should be segregated from the rest of the community. These words made a deep impression on the audience, for they seemed then fully to realise the heinousness of the crime and the gravity of the danger. There is a strong impression in Godalming that important evidence in the case has been held back; strenuous efforts are now being made, in which the important men and women of the neighbourhood, as well as the workers, are co-operating, to obtain the help of the Public Prosecutor in order that a searching inquiry may be made. The National Union gave valuable assistance by their presence on the platform, and by the sale of tickets; the Guildford and Godalming Branches of the I.L.P. also deserve thanks for their excellent service in stewarding the meeting.

It is piteous beyond expression to realise that these are not isolated cases. Terrible stories come to us from rescue homes of injuries inflicted on young children. The knowledge of these atrocities, and the apparent inadequacy of the law and its administration to stop them constitutes one of the reasons for the impelling force, the deathless energy behind the woman's movement of to-day.

ADULT SUFFRAGE AT THE ALBERT HALL.

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Suffragists will muster in force at the Albert Hall on Tuesday, February 13, when the demonstration, organised by the Labour Party, the Independent Labour Party, and the Fabian Society, will take place. Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., will take the chair at 8 p.m. The speakers include the foremost names of the Labour Party, as well as Mrs. Despard, Miss Mary MacArthur, and Miss Millicent Murby. It is important that tickets (from 5s. to 6d., with free admission to the gallery) be purchased before the night of the meeting. For particulars see p. iii. of cover. [N.B.—Owing to this important demonstration the W.F.L. Discussion meeting at the Gardenia Restaurant, fixed for the same night, is postponed.] the same night, is postponed.]

WOMEN AS PUBLIC SERVANTS IN NORWAY.

By a large majority a Bill enabling women to hold many public offices was passed by the Storthing a few days ago. As a correspondent observes, it will soon be possible to address the judges in a Norwegian Court of Appeal with the words, "May it please your ladyships!" Women may not be members of the Government, ministers of the State Church, representatives abroad or in military command, but the amendment giving absolute equality gained twenty-eight votes out of eighty-eight.

QUALITY AND VALUE.

A perusal of the illustrated catalogue of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company, Ltd.—which can obtained post free from 112, Regent-street, London, W.—convinces one that purchasers of gen jewellery and gold and silver plate may there obtain the utmost value for their money.

Women Writers' Suffrage League. GRAND MATINEE, NEW PRINCES THEATRE, Shaftesbury Avenue (New Oxford Street end), On FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, at 2.30 p.m. A feature of the programme will be "EDITH," by ELIZABETH BAKER (Author of "Chains.") Miss LENA ASHWELL as Edith. GRAND PAGEANT OF SHAKESPEARE'S HEROINES. TICKETS from the Ticket Secretary, W.W.S.L., 55, Berners Street, W.

The Hours 1 to 4. Telephone: City 1808. Seats (Reserved), 10/6, 7/6, 5/-, 4/-; nreserved) 2/6, 1/-. Boxes, £3 3s., £2 2s., £1 11s. 6d.

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THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT THE CONFERENCE, 1912.

[The following is an abridged report of Mrs. Despard's Presidential address, which will appear in full with the annual Report of the Women's Freedom League.]

My first duty, and very great pleasure, is to welcome in my own name, and on behalf of the N.E.C., who have transacted your business at Headquarters during the past year, the delegates who have come to us from our Branches throughout the country. It is well, however, that when we come together at our annual Conference, we should take the opportunity of surveying the situation—political, social and international, as it affects the Cause of women in our own country and generally. We feel also Cause of women in our own country and generally. We feel also that at a moment so critical as that upon which we have entered, ur policy as a League, with our reasons for adopting that policy, hould be brought before you.

The Year's Political History.

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I begin with the political history of the year. You will remember that when last we met the surprising elections that brought a coalition of parties into power were just over. Some brought a coalition of parties into power were just over. Some of us who during that fight had done much propagandum work, were struck with the changed attitude of the electorate towards our question. Some few were even bold enough to hope that the Government that came in then, reading wisely the letters on the wall, would make a reference to the will of the people as regards Women's Suffrage in the King's Speech.

This was not done. The Conciliation Bill, which had gained many adherents during the year, was brought in by private Members. Every effort had been made to secure public attention to the Bill, and in the month of May it passed its second reading

to the Bill, and in the month of May it passed its second reading by a triumphant majority, but was denied facilities for that full discussion which would precede the third reading.

None of those present will ever forget the emotions of that night. The first impulse was to demonstrate, to use militancy, but as we think, wiser counsels prevailed. It was decided by all the great suffrage societies that our joint procession and the Coronation festivities should be allowed to take place peacefully, and shortly afterwards Sir Edward Grey, pressed as some of us thought by Colonial visitors, made a promise, confirmed afterwards by Mr. Asquith, that in 1912, when the Parliament Bill had been dealt with, full facilities should be given for discussion of the Conciliation Bill with possible amendments. On this the militant societies rested until November of last year, when it militant societies rested until November of last year, when it came upon us like a bomb-shell that, without including women. Mr. Asquith proposed, early next Session, to bring forward a measure so largely increasing the electoral franchise for men as to make it practically a Manhood Suffrage Bill. Of this bit of very recent history I need not speak in any detail, for it is fresh in the minds of all of you. The political situation, as you will see, had completely changed, and my business to-day is to put before you the policy adopted by your National Executive Committee.

Let me say this is one instance in many of unexpected happenings, and of the necessity laid then, and certainly to be laid in the future, on the Executive to act promptly. We had to take our part. It will be for you to criticise our action. Rightly or wrongly we came to the conclusion that active militancy would be not only premature, but probably hurtful to our cause. Passive resistance goes on, and we are ready for active resistance when what we feel to be the right moment arrives. This is our position. We are deeply indignant. Resolutions have been passed at many meetings, in some places with Liberal politicians the chair, expressing our indignation.

Position of the W. F. L.

Position of the W. F. L.

It has appeared to me that the Women's Freedom League in the woman's movement occupies a unique and a peculiarly difficult, but certainly a very useful position. We are in the middle of two opposing principles. We have adopted militancy as a necessary weapon; it has an elastic quality; we can use it; we can refrain from using it. When, with full recognition of the sacrifice entailed, we deliberately make use of militancy, and the leavest the behalf of the processing the property behalf it. Honge we make clearly evident the logical necessity behind it. Hence we draw to us militants who could not join other societies. That we have compelled one political party to see the logical necessity of our plea, and to make Adult (man and woman suffrage) their question, and that the campaign is already opening, marks a milestone upon the road along which we are travelling.

The difficulty here is in the inequality of numbers in the sexes. Many of us believe that this is a fortuitous and impermanent thing that will pass away when conditions for children are better and when the life of the worker is more carefully guarded, but it exists and will, we fear, if manhood suffrage should be seriously brought forward, prevent what is really right and logical—namely, Parliamentary franchise on the same terms for men and women. But the Manhood Suffrage Bill may not come in at all next year, and the Conciliation Bill is not dead yet. We do not intend that it shall die until we are certain of an amendment in the Men's Franchise Bill. In certain of an amendment in the Men's Franchise Bill. In speaking of the political history of the year we must not forget that a vast yearly sum—a part of which certainly is taken from woman—has been appropriated to the payment of Members, and that a measure—the Insurance Bill, which affects the lives of women very seriously indeed, has become law this last Session. It is worthy of remark, however, as showing the effect of our

agitation, that out of the four Insurance Commissioners, one by the direct mandate of Parliament, is a woman.

Progress Abroad.

Abroad, in the Colonies, in the United States of America and in the East, the woman's Cause has been moving forward with remarkable rapidity. Two American States have pronounced for woman's suffrage; a woman Member has spoken in the Norwegian Parliament; an international Congress which seems to have surpassed any previous one in numbers and interest, was held at Stockholm. We hear that the women of India are forming themselves into societies, the women of Persia have addressed a prayer for help to the women of England, a Chinese woman doctor has spoken in London and the Provinces during Progress Abroad. woman doctor has spoken in London and the Provinces during a first but significant visit to this country, and we learn that, in the strange uprising in that vast and mysterious land the women are taking their part. Everything indicates that the great, long misunderstood force which we call womanhood, is becoming

Individual Responsibility in United Effort.

Individual Responsibility in United Effort.

I return to ourselves and the business of to-day. That which I desire most strongly to impress upon you is that as the individual forms an integral part of the community, so each society in quest of a great good forms a part of the movement to which it is pledged. For any society at this particular moment to grow slack, to fall out from its place, to shirk its responsibilities, would be to endanger the whole movement. That our Women's Freedom League should be guilty of so great a wrong is not to be imagined. We have worked under great difficulties. It is a proof of the love of sensation of modern society that funds fall off when there is no active militancy. We have suffered this year from the departure of such splendid friends as Mrs. Borrman Wells and Mrs. Wood, of Glasgow. We trust they will come back. I would that everyone here would bestir herself, that everyone would take back to her Branch the words, "The future of the Women's Freedom League, with all its grand opportunities for use and service to humanity, lies in our hands." I observe with pleasure that there are new names on the nomination list. We want new blood, and it is good that sometimes those who have worked well in their own Branches should take their place in Headquarter's work—good, certainly, from times those who have worked well in their own Branches should take their place in Headquarter's work—good, certainly, from our point of view; a member of the Executive realises a little what the difficulties are. I conclude with the earnest hope that this Conference may be good, helpful and profitable, that we may gain light from our deliberations, and that all who take part in it may return with fresh hope and confidence to their work in Scotland, Wales, and the English Provinces, which will, I hope, as in the past, be represented on the new National Executive Committee.

"THE CORONATION."

"THE CORONATION."

The censoring of The Coronation, a one-act play by Miss Christopher St. John, a well-known Suffragist, and Mr. Charles Thursby, has been one of the sensations of the week. The play was given, however, to an invited audience at the Savoy Theatre under the polite fiction that they were not the public. So, except for financial returns, is a coach and four driven through the Censor's authority. We take the following description of the play from The Daily News:—

"On its merits, the play thoroughly justifies the huge advertisement the Censor has given it. Its propaganda work is done admirably, its dramatic grip is undeniable and well maintained, and it never comes within measurable distance of suggesting that an English king is exercising unwise power or neglecting his duties.

or neglecting his duties.

"There is humour in the spectacle of Henricus XVI., King of Omnisterre, keeping his Court and the Coronation congregation waiting while he requires his chafing Ministers to supply him with the text of the oath he is called upon to swear. A poor woman has evaded the police and military and set his residue to the court of the policy of the statement of the court of th poor woman has evaded the police and military and set his mind speculating with the petition she has thrown into his gilded coach. He refuses to be crowned until he has seen the woman. She comes, a poor, pathetic, white-faced little figure with red hair, and the King orders all his courtiers and protectors to leave him, so that she may state the grievances of herself and an oppressed people to him alone.

"There was intense drama in the vivid emotionalism of this scene—the woman's passionate story of the death of her baby from cold; her eighteen hours' work a day for 7s. a week; her batted of the King glowing to a white heat from the night

baby from cold; her eighteen hours' work a day for 's. a week; her hatred of the King glowing to a white heat from the night when, in the depths of her misery, she witnessed through the windows of a club the wanton luxury of a party in which Prince Henricus was sharing; her vow to kill Henricus with the table-knife which, in her madness, she thrust into the cold heart of her own dead child. Henricus makes no move to prevent her stabbing him. She throws down the knife. The King calls back his Court, and tells his protesting Ministers that he will only be crowned on three conditions. He must be anointed on the steps outside the cathedral, before the multitudes who are too poor to gain admission; the Crown and Regalia are to be sold for the relief of distress; and an election, based on manhood and womanhood suffrage, must take place

at once. And the Ministers, perforce, submit.

"Hits at wrong-headed Imperialism and at military and naval extravagance—the Navy Minister's policy is to multiply the next biggest Navy by four every time, for example—there are; but even those who see the dangers of a sudden change like that foreshadowed by Henricus will fail to find anything

OUR TREASURY.

With the two days' Conference behind me, and the meeting of the National Executive Committee before me. I am altogether too exhausted and busy this week to do more than send my greetings to the League with a call to arms, especially in the way of money-making, for the coming year. Remember that it is, perhaps, the most tremendous year in the history of the movement since the institution of militancy.

CONSTANCE TITE.

NATIONAL FUND. (Branch and District Funds not Included.) Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1911, £14,410 15s. 11d.

£ s. d'	£ s. d.	
Amount previously ac-	Anerley Branch 0 12 6	
knowledged327 8 8	Hampstead Garden	
Miss C. Tite (collected) 4 0 0	Suburb Branch 0 18 4	
Miss A. Mocatta 3 0 0	Miss M. Turner 0 6 0	
Caldicot Branch 1 5 6	Capitation Fees:	
Brighton and Hove	Ipswich Branch 0 10 0	
Branch (Miss Boyle's	Brighton Branch 0 8 6	
expenses refunded) 0 9 6	Waterloo Liverpool	
Miss Husband (part of	Branch 0 7 6	
N.E.C. Travelling Ex-	Cardiff Branch 0 6 0	
penses refunded) 1 0 0	Sheffield Branch 0 6 0	
Mrs. Vulliamy (Ditto) 0 12 7	Stamford Hill Branch 0 1 6	
Mrs. Tudor (Ditto) 1 1 3	Sunderland Branch 0 5 6	
Miss V. Wildman 0 3 0	Dunfermline Branch 0 0 6	
Miss M. Penrose 0 5 0	For Office Expenses Fund:	
Miss F. A. Elliott (col-	West Sussex Branch:	
lected) 0 5 2	Mrs. Archer, Mrs.	
Miss D. Allwork 0 5 0	Bridges, Mrs. M. E.	
Miss M. H. Saunders., 0 2 6	Bigham, The Misses	
Miss King 0 1 0	Cummin, Mrs. Red-	
Miss Bliss 0 1 0	ford, Mrs. Rivers 3 10 6	
Miss Clark 0 1 0	Political and Militant	
Mrs. Clarkson Swann	Dept.:	
(money earned) 0 4 0	"J. M. A." 10 0 0	
Miss Spencer 0 2 6	A. How, Esq 2 0 0	
Miss Hall 0 2 6	Miss L. How 2 10 0	
Per Mrs. Clarkson Swann:	Mr. and Mrs. Good-	
Mrs. Cobden Sanderson I 0 0	land How 0 10 0	
Per Miss Penrose:	Per Mrs. How Martyn:	
Mrs. Craig 0 5 0	"Thank Offering" 0 10 0	
Per Mrs. E. Hutton:	For Christmas Gift	
Mrs. Joseph 0 10 0	Fund:	
New Year's Gift Fund :	Mrs. A. A. Thomson 0 10 0	
Mrs. E. A. H. Douglas	Collections and Sales:	
Hamilton , , 5 0 0	London 2 8 0	
Special Levies:		
Dundee Branch 2 10 0	Total £375 16 0	
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Che ques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League. and crossed "London and South-Western Bank, Ltd."		
and crossed "London and South-Western Bank, Ltd."		

THE CAUSE AT CANNES.

One of the W.F.L. Suffrage plays, The Stuff that 'Eroes are Made of," was performed at the Beau Site Hotel, Cannes, the week before last. The authoress, not without some shaking at the knees, owing to the somewhat anti-feeling amongst the guests, and against strict orders from the doctor, determined that a holiday in the South of France should not pass without the gospel of woman's political freedom being preached in some form or other. The result was in every way marvellously satisfactory. Discussions on the subject were free and plentiful, and indeed it was a gratifying sight to the W.F.L. member to see groups of people holding miniature debates on the question of Votes for women, especially amongst a set the majority of whom usually give their great minds, time, and attention, to the discussion of the best "system" for breaking the Bank at Monte Carlo, bridge conventions, golf or tennis championships. Being of a sanguine nature the W.F.L. member hopes the seeds sown by this propaganda play will bear fruit. She noticed an increased demand for the loan of Olive Schreiner's "Women and Labour." with which she had carefully provided herself. She would like to state that her copy of The Vote was always placed well to the fore of the table for papers in the hall, but it had to be guarded against the attacks of the antis, who tried now and again to seize it and bury it in the oblivion of the wastepaper basket, from which, needless to say, it was triumphantly rescued,

Miss Leah Anson is prepared to speak on "The Insurance Bill" &c., for all Branches of the W.F.L. for expenses only. For other societies a small donation to the funds of the League would be acceptable. January 27, Walthamstow; January 31, Peckham; February 5, Uxbridge; March 5, Peckham,

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Swedish women have grasped the *spirit* of Freedom. Their war-cry is "Liberty and Responsibility!" If you tear respone sibility from out the heart of liberty she dies, and the satyr facof licence will confront you with her mocking eyes.

The old familiar "They say." Chinese men who oppose the anti-footbinding movement say that if Chinese women could walk easily they would stray from home and forget their children. They also say that all the women are not in favour of

Scene: A Suburban Tram-car.
Irate Passenger (age 28): They call themselves a Government! Muddlers, I call them! They'll reduce the country to chaos!

Quite a Nice Girl (age 20): Then why not let the women

have a try?
P.: "Votes for Women!" I'm sick of the agitation.

P.: "Votes for Womes.
N. G.: So are we.
P.: Women would only make matters worse.
Clive vourselves a chance of finding N. G.: Give yourselves a chance of finding out what they N. G.: Give yourselves a charte of many would do.
P.: They can smash windows.
N. G.: Do you imagine that's all?
P.: Pretty nearly.
N. G.: Then leave off talking, you're out of your depth!

N. G.: Their load. Collapse of irate passenger.

The Liberal candidates of Victoria acknowledge that they knew full well how vastly less efficient they would be without the persistent efforts of the women, directed as they are with intelligence and zeal.—From "The Liberal," Australia.

Mrs. Garrett is the first woman Justice of the Peace in the United States. She is a power in politics, and can do anything; cook a dinner, shoot a wolf, shoe a horse. Speaking of voting, she says: "Here (in Wyoming) women voted before the territory became a State. We think no more of it than we do of getting in a load of groceries for the winter—not half so much, ometimes, when we have to send a four-horse team seventy-five sometimes, when we have to send a four-horse team seventy-five miles across the plains to bring back a ten of stuff." "Women have to share men's lives in the open, naturally they have shared men's political interests. Why shouldn't we hold any office if we are fit for it and want it?" When asked if her work as Justice did not interfere with her home duties, she replied: as Justice did not interfere with her home duties, she replied: "No more than going to a matinée or down-town shopping interferes with the city woman's home duties. I have done most of my housework for a large family. To-day my two daughters are married, I have two grown sons and a little girl; and every one of them says: 'There's no place like home and no pies like mother's!' Almost the only interest for a ranch woman outside her home lies in politics. As for the work being 'outside woman's sphere,' my experience and the fact that I have been re-elected to office through the men's vote, have convinced me that a woman can not only do the work a man convinced me that a woman can not only do the work a man would do, and in a way to suit the men of the precinct, but often a great deal that a man would never think of doing, and possibly could not do. I do not mean to say that I think women ought to replace men in this or any other office. I think the officer should be selected according to fitness without regard to sex, and that when a woman is selected as Justice of the Peace she can often do more good than a man because she has the patience and sympathy a man often lacks."—From "The Saturday Evening Post."

K. Harvey, Hon. Head Press Dept., Women's Freedom League.

"HARD-UP" SOCIAL.

The organising committee of the Hard-Up Social hope that Freedom Leaguers are keeping the evening of February 17 free for the Hard-Up Social. Mrs. Despard will receive the guests from 6.30 to 7 p.m. There will be a "sit-down" supper provided by the guests, who are also requested to bring a present to be sold for the benefit of the League. It is particularly asked that donors will mark the price of their presents. The evening's entertainment will include dancing, performances of "An Englishwoman's Home," by H. Arncliffe Sennett, and "Explanations," by Marion Holmes and Lousia Thomson Price; also vocal and instrumental music, palmistry, morris dancing, and an auction sale.

Tickets, 1s., are now obtainable from Headquarters, all London Branch secretaries, and Madame J. van Raalte, hon. sec., 23, Pandora-road, W. Hampstead. Contributions already acknowledged, £2 14s. 10d. In addition to this the hon. treasurer acknowledges with thanks the following, A Friend, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. How (Cheltenham), 1s.; Miss How, 2s.; Mrs. How Martyn, 2s. 6d. Further contributions to be addressed to the hon. treasurer, Miss D. Woolf, 46, Mazenod-avenue, West Hampstead.

THE VOTE.

THE VOTE

Proprietors-THE MINERY PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 2, Robert Street; Adelphi, W.C.

Secretary-Miss H. HOLMAN. Directors-Mrs. DESPARD, Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. M. H. FISHER, Miss C. ANDREWS, Mrs. E. SPROSON, Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

SATURDAY, February 3, 1912.

A CALL FOR CLEAR THINKING.

In the multitude of societies in every part of the country, each with its own particular object, it is surprising that we do not find one for the education of men and women in clear thinking. High thinking, deep thinking, active work to bring about the accomplishment of some individual or social aspiration—of these we hear: but of that clear mental vision which, piercing the veils of illusion, brings the truth of things to light. we hear very little. Yet, of all the crying wants of the present day this is perhaps the greatest.

In the old days there was, even in politics, a definiteness of aim—a precision of statement that we do not find now. Political opponents stood facing one another in the House of Commons and in the country, and it was possible to place them. We knew we should find here, and we knew, also, that we should find hindrance there. To-day politics are a whirligig.

Day after day we watch the papers, as we watch the weather-chart. No sooner have we placed our man as friend or foe than we find that he is neither. Under certain circumstances he will take a certain course, because, he will tell us, he considers it right and honourable to do so. But we must not take him too seriously. Given a change of attitude on the part of some other persons, and he may find it the right and honourable thing to go back from his word; or, rather, he may seek to persuade us that we have mistaken his meaning. So it comes about that those who do try to think clearly find themselves often bewildered, and sometimes betrayed.

We are moved to these reflections by what is passing in the political world to-day with regard to Woman's Suffrage. There cannot be the slightest doubt that male politicians—those who are indifferent, as well as those who are afraid—are perceiving every day more clearly that a vast number of women in this country are in deadly earnest. They are not beseeching-the day is over for that. They are demanding. These men are aware, also, of the actual power of woman, and there has come to them the uncomfortable suspicion that she is entering upon this power consciously, and as an instrument that she means to use. Undoubtedly this would bring about changes. When women are no longer patient drudges on the one hand or sham queens and pinchbeck goddesses on the other, some men, as well as some women, would find themselves in a world of strange and, to some of them, alarming farces. This danger must be averted. So, through a fatal lack of that clear thinking which leads to strong action, they fence with the question. A little diplomacy, a few promises, some shifting of the burden of blame from an over-tasked Ministry to the rank and file of the House of Commons will lay it to rest for at least their time.

It is through such miserable failure to accept the logic of a situation that fatal disasters fall upon families and nations, and we cannot be surprised that one of the Liberal papers, referring the other day to the revival of the Referendum proposal, spoke of it as "a grave

To the minds of those who think deeply there urks at the back of all this a still graver peril. Now woman's eyes are open, now she has realised her human equality with men, she begins to see what before she may only have vaguely felt—the intolerable nature of her position. Take, for instance, woman and the law! In a country which professes to make justice its watchword—a country one of whose axioms it is that a man shall be judged by

his peers, how is woman tried? Have her peers any word as to the verdict passed upon her, or as to the punishment to be inflicted for breaches of the law. No word is hers as to the making of the laws by which she is to be bound, and she is not even permitted to have a share in their administration. No woman who was present at the trial of Daisy Turner for wilful murder at Gloucester will ever lose the impression made upon her by that girlish figure in the crowd of men who were trying her, nor the passionate revolt against the injustice involved in the fact that the whole of the dreadful drama was being treated from the man's point of view.

In some cases where women are tried, as happened lately women are actually excluded from the court, When Emily Wilding Davison was tried recently at the Old Bailey, her personal friends were met by the astounding order, "No females admitted." Again, when Mrs. Gatty was brought up on the charge of attempting to break a window, the same order was given. We mention these as late instances; but over and over again the same thing has happened, which proves clearly, so far as the relations between men and women under the law are concerned, a disastrous lack of clear thinking and consistent action.

It would be easy to elaborate this, to show how the laws relating to marriage, to divorce, to children, to the rights of parentage, to inheritance, to labour and its reward all fail in this one particular; they are lopsided; they give evidence of the dire necessity that exists for clear and logical thinking. A poet once prayed a remarkable prayer. It was: "Oh! wad some oower the giftie gie us to see o'orsel's as ithers see us! What an extraordinary spectacle would the thoughts of the modern politician, even the statesman, offer, if by some magical device they could be brought before us in visible form!

We, the women in the woman's movement, should, however, be upon our guard. Certain persons in the olden time were warned of the dread possibility that while preaching to others they might themselves be castaways. To us, even more urgently than to the politicians, rings out the call for clear thinking; and we feel it is well that we of the Women's Freedom League, casting away all illusions, have definitely taken up our position. Our Conference is just over. Delegates of Branches all over the country have met together at Caxton Hall in earnest deliberation, and reports will be given to our members in due time. To those who are still outside the movement, and to members of other societies, we desire it to be known that, with no uncertain voice, the note on two points of vital importance rang out.

Equal rights for man and woman, the recognition of a dual humanity. This was the first point, and the demand is that which, from the initiation of our society, has been set forth-political enfranchisement on the same terms as those now, or at any future time accorded to The note of the whole Conference was that nothing short of this act of elementary justice would satisfy And the second note, sounded with no less force, was that of militancy. When it must be used, or where or how, rests with the future. On the new Executive Committee and the newly-elected officers rests the obligation of carrying out the wishes of the League when the occasion arises.

It is worthy of special interest that on the evening of the day when our Annual Conference met, the cam-paign planned by the Independent Labour Party to enforce equality of rights for man and woman, and to repudiate a merely manhood suffrage opened in a None who were present there on Sunday night could entertain any doubt of the sincerity and earnestness of the battle so auspiciously begun. To some of us it is particularly good to know that Adult Suffrage is at least wide-awake and active, and that all those who are supporting it realise its significance.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE W.F.L.

For two days, Saturday and Sunday, January 27 and 28, the Women's Freedom League was in Conference at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, and even two long sittings did not suffice completely to cover the prodigious agenda paper. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday, the officials and delegates were kept busy, with only brief intervals for meals. The Council Chamber presented a very business-like appearance, with a high table at the end for the President and the National Executive Council, and tables stretching across the hall for the delegates and their important documents. Members of the League, who attended as spectators only, found accommodation round the hall.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1912.

The first important business was the reception by Mrs. Despard, the President, of the delegates from the in the Annual Report issued to all members.

London.—Acton, Mrs. Arney; Anerley, Miss Ethel Fennings; Clapham, Mrs. Thomas; Croydon, Mrs. Labrousse and Mrs. Terry; Finchley, Mrs. Farrington; Hackney, Mrs. Catmur and Miss Roles; Hampstead, Mrs. Spiller and Mrs. Thomson Price; Hampstead Garden Suburb, Mrs. Drysdale; West Hampstead, Mrs. van Raalte; Harrow, Mrs. Huntsman; Herne Hill, Miss B. Spencer; Highbury, Miss John; Kensington, Miss Boyle; Mid-London, Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Tritton; Northern Heights, Miss Dyer; Stamford Hill, Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Thomson; Tottenham, Miss Todd.

After the necessary preliminary business of appointing the Standing Orders Committee, Tellers, and Scrutineers, the Conference heard with much interest Mrs. Despard's presidential address—an abridged report of which will be found on page 172. The reports of the various departments were next taken; they will, with Mrs. Despard's address, be given [in full

RECEPTION OF DELEGATES BY MRS. DESPARD.



(Montgomery Borough

Mrs. Despard.

photographer did his part, and so we are able to give our readers a lightning impression, emphasising a special value of the Annual Conference which does not find its way on to the agenda paper, namely, the face to face meeting of members and the realisation of the links that bind them in their service to the Cause.

In addition to Mrs. Despard (President), Miss Tite (hon. treasurer), and Miss Underwood (secretary), the following members of the Executive Council present:-Miss Andrews, Mrs. Coates Hanson, Miss Husband, Miss Munro, Miss Neilans, Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. Tudor, and Mrs. Vulliamy. The following delegates

represented the Branches:—
England (Provinces).—Brighton and Hove, Miss Hare and England (Provinces).—Brighton and Hove, Miss Hare and Miss White; Cheltenham, Miss Boult; Eccles, Miss Heyes; Hadleigh, Mrs. Tippett; West Hartlepool, Mrs. English; Ipswich, Miss Andrews; Liverpool, Mrs. Hall; Manchester (Central), Miss Neal; Middlesbrough, Mrs. Schofield Coates; Portsmouth, Miss Hattrill; Sheffield, Miss Barnett; South Shields, Mrs. Revel; Sunderland, Mrs. Palliser and Miss Clark; West Sussex, Miss Cummin; Wellingborough, Miss Sharman; Wolverhampton, Miss Callaer.

Scotland.—Dundee, Miss Husband; Edinburgh, Miss Jack; Glasgow, Miss Bunten; Scattered members, Miss Murray.

Walds.—Montgomery Boroughs, Miss Clark and Mrs. Felix Jones; Cardiff, Miss Hill; Swansea, Mrs. Ross.

Branches. At one moment during this welcome the We may mention here that the hon, treasurer was able to announce a satisfactory financial position with regard to expenditure and income, and she put clearly before the Conference the need for determined effort to fill the coffers if the increasing work of the League in all its departments is to be carried on satisfactorily. The Literature secretary also reported a gratifying result of the year's work, showing how the publications of the department are more and more widely recognised and are in demand far beyond the limits of the W.F.D. In addition to the useful pamphlets published, special reference was made to the admirable Cameo Life sketches written by Mrs. Marion Holmes, which are being sold in large numbers. Messages from California also showed how the flag brooches of the W.F.D. were quite an important feature of the recent struggle which ended in the enfranchisement of the women.

> The Secretary dealt with many features of vital interest to the League, and reported that three flourishing branches have been added during the year: Montgomery Boroughs, Kensington, and Hampstead Garden Suburb: one new group has come into being, and others are in the process of formation. The various demonstrations. and especially the John Stuart Mill and the Suffrage

Coronation processions, were referred to, as well as the different points of the country; the enthusiasm of the exceedingly good work done by Miss Sidley and her fellow helpers with the caravan.

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Miss Neilans, in the regretted absence through illness of Mrs. How Martyn, read the report of the Political and Militant Department. It goes without saying that the Conference sent a warm message of sympathy to Mrs. How Martyn, and expressed the hope that she would soon be able to take an active part in the work of the League. Sympathetic reference was also made to Miss Sidley, absent through illness, whose fine work in speaking and organising is well known to the League. On the other hand, the Conference had the pleasure of welcoming back Mrs. Amy Sanderson, fit and able for work, after her long withdrawal through serious illness.

Subsequently considerable discussion took place on the political and militant work for the future, and it became clear that nothing short of votes for women on the same terms as they are or may be given to men—the old battle-cry of the League—was the dominant policy; that the spirit of militancy, though in abeyance, was still ready for action when the call came, was also enthusiastically demonstrated. The resolutions on this question adopted by the Conference are given in Mrs. Holmes' article on page 170.

Another important topic to which considerable discussion was devoted, was finance, and various resolutions with regard to internal organisation and membership were debated at length. The Conference in future is to be held in March. A vote of congratulation was sent to the women of Washington and California on

of the varied character of the work and the workers in President.

North led one delegate to declare that plays and politics had to be "tried on Tyneside" before being submitted to the country. Miss Clark, of Montgomery Boroughs, brought news of the splendid success attained in Vote sales in the Boroughs. From Manchester came information of encouraging and hopeful prospects, and Scotland was able to give the Conference the benefit of wide and successful experience in propaganda work of all kinds, as well as successful by-election campaigns.

For the last sitting Mrs. Coates Hanson, who had been chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, and done valuable service in the business management of the Conference, took the chair for Mrs. Despard, who had to keep another engagement.

The ballot for officers resulted as follows:—President, Mrs. Despard, by a unanimous vote. Miss Tite was re-elected hon. treasurer; members of the Executive Council: Miss Jack, Miss Murray, Miss Husband-to serve alternately for Scotland—Mrs. Coates Hanson, Miss Andrews, Mrs. How Martyn, Miss Munro, Miss Neilans, Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. Fisher, Miss Clark (Montgomery Boroughs), Mrs. Drysdale, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Vulliamy. These, given in order of the voting, form the Committee. The following are the next in order to be called upon to fill any vacancies that may arise: Dr. Knight, Miss Heyes, Miss Neal, Mrs. Tippett, Mrs. Tritton. The new members are Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Drysdale, Miss Clark, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Snow and Mrs.

Tudor did not stand for re-election.
On Monday morning, January 29, the new Executive their victory during the past year.

The annual Conference always affords good evidence members were welcomed by Mrs. Despard, the

You can fasten your blouse yourself 99 Patent Blouse and Bodice THE



in a neater and more secure manner that could ever be attained by the old methods. NO HOOKS and EYES or BUTTONS—simply neat linen-covered rust-proof steels brought together in a clean, straight join by merely buckling the web-tapes in front.

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No fear of your "back" being untidy with the "GRETA"; you are sure of your blouse being perfectly fastened from top to bottom and without any gaps or bulges. Think how comfortable! The "GRETA" won't rust, so need not be removed for washing, but can, of course, be taken from blouse to blouse as the latter wear out

The "GRETA" CO., Ltd., invite you to make yourself a blouse and fit it with the "GRETA" Fastener, and, under the conditions given below, offer the following Prizes for the prettiest and best made:—

FIRST PRIZE, £10 10s.; SECOND PRIZE, £5 5s.; THIRD PRIZE, £2 2s.

10 PRIZES of £1 1s. each; 25 PRIZES of a 21s. "GRETA" SIIK Blouse; 25 PRIZES of a 10s. "GRETA" Bag;

100 CONSOLATION PRIZES of a "GRETA" Fastener.

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1. The materials used for the blouse must not cost more than 10s., and it must be made entirely and unaided by the competitor herself, who enters only on this understanding.

nerself, who enters only on this understanding.

2. The BLOUSE WILL BE RETURNED immediately the result is announced, provided a sufficiently stamped and addressed label for this purpose is attached to the blouse.

3. Any blouse without the "Greta" Fastener will be disqualified.

4. Blouses must be addressed "Competition," The "Greta" Co., Ltd., 168-172, Old-street, London, E.C., and must arrive not later than February 28.

5. Style, cut, neatness of work, and more especially the manner of fixing the Fastener, will all be taken into consideration in awarding the prizes. Competent dress experts will judge the blouses, and their decision will be final. The result will be advertised in the Daily Mail on March 19.

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If not stocked by your Draper, fill in this Coupon To "Greta" Co., Ltd., 168-172, Old-st., London, E.C.

lease *White Cotton (1/1), White Silk (1/7), send me..... Black Cotton (1/1), Black Silk (1/7), GRETA" Fastener, size * 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 inches, for which I enclose P.O.....*Strike out those not required.

Name....

IRISH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE FEDERATION.

With the aim of carrying out extensive propaganda work in Ireland an Irish Woman's Suffrage Federation has been formed. By uniting their strength, not their constitutions, the societies will co-operate in extending work already in hand and forming new societies all over Ireland. No existing Woman's Suffrage Society, it was felt, had sufficient funds for extensive propa-

ganda work.

Such work is the first aim of the Federation, but it will also provide a means of intercourse amongst Irish Suffragists, and no doubt lead to a permanent association, to continue after the vote has been won, for the promotion of social and moral reforms which particularly affect women's life and work.

In October the constitution of the Federation was drawn up

Objects.—(a) To link together the scattered Suffrage societies in Ireland in the effort to obtain the vote as it is, or may be,

granted to men.

(b) To carry on more propaganda and educative work throughout Ireland than has hitherto been possible.

(c) To form the basis of an association which will continue to exist after enfranchisement; and whose purpose will be to work, through the power of the vote, for the welfare of women in every department of life.

Methods.—By holding an annual meeting of delegates from the Federated Societies for the transaction of business.

By holding half-yearly conferences in towns which are the Headquarters of Federated Societies, the conference to be addressed by chosen representatives from the various centres. dressed by chosen representatives from the various centres, and by invited delegates from independent Suffrage societies and from organisations existing to further social and moral reform.

By interchange of speakers at the request of societies in the

By arranging tours for special speakers to address public meetings throughout the country.

By establishing a separate fund for opening up new centres

of interest.

Societies are now affiliated in Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Waterford, Lisburn, and Newry. A Branch has just been established in Parsonstown. Another is in process of formation in Armagh; a large meeting is to be held next week in Athlone, when it is hoped that a Branch will be established there. The committee of the Federation has also carried on active, constitutional agitation amongst Parliamentarians with some interesting results. Engagements have been made with English speakers. Miss Helga Gill, of the N.U.W.S.S., is at present on a tour in Ireland. To the great joy of all Mrs. Despard has promised to visit Ireland and speak for the Federation in April. No speaker on Suffrage in Ireland has won such enthusiastic admiration as Mrs. Despard. Mr. Laurence Housman is to pay a visit in May and perhaps Miss Cicely Corbett.

TEACHERS AND THE VOTE.

TEACHERS AND THE VOTE.

The Tottenham and Wood Green Association of the N.U.T. held their general meeting recently, and discussed the following motion sent down from the Executive of the N.U.T.: "That this Conference expresses its sympathy with those members of the N.U.T. who desire to possess and exercise the Parliamentary Franchise; but because they are women, and for that reason alone, are by law debarred from it." Mr. Helliwell proposed, and Mrs. Smellie seconded the motion, after which Mrs. Mustard, of the Women's Freedom League, who had been invited by the Association to speak on the subject of Women's Suffrage from a teacher's point of view, emphasised the fact that equal pay for equal work would only be forthcoming if men and women in the Union were politically equal; she deplored the state of things which claimed 2s. from its women members for parliamentary expenditure, when no woman had deplored the state of things which claimed 2s. from its women members for parliamentary expenditure, when no woman had effective parliamentary representation. One of the chief aims of the Union is to secure the effective representation of educational interest in Parliament. This could not be done if the woman's point of view is overlooked. The resolution was passed by a considerable majority, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Mustard.

LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL-PUBLIC MEETING.

LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL—PUBLIC MEETING.

The attention of every member in London is directed to the fact that a very important public meeting, organised by the London Branches Council, is to be held at Caxton Hall on Thursday, February 15, at 8 p.m. This is the first W. F. L. public meeting in Central London of 1912, and it is hoped that its success will augur well for the success of our work in London this year. The speakers will include Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Zangwill, and Miss Neilans. Names of other speakers will be announced next week. Coming immediately after the opening of Parliament, the necessity of having a well-supported meeting cannot be too greatly emphasised. The position of our League must be made clear at this critical time. We look to everyone to realise her responsibility by making the meeting widely known and selling many tickets, so that the Hall is full to overflowing. Tickets (1s. and 6d.) may be had from Miss Andrews, or from the Branch secretaries. Will all those who will take part in poster parades or give some time for bill distribution or chalking and their reasons. parades or give some time for bill distribution or chalking send their names to Miss Andrews, 1, Robert-street, Aldelphi, Help of any kind will be much appreciated—especially for poster parades. SERVICE SERVICES

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In order to increase our business connection amongst readers of 'The Vote,' we will make a reduction of 10 per cent. off cost of all purchases made during February.

All goods are made on the premises and Men-Tailored throughout.

An early visit will be esteemed a favour.

"Thinking Women Read

The Standard."

N a few weeks this phrase has become a truism. Why? Order The Standard for a week, or a day and you will see. It is because, since October 3, The Standard's daily news pages have included

"WOMAN'S PLATFORM,"

which every Thinking Woman in the land, and very many thinking men, want to see and to study every day. 'WOMAN'S PLATFORM" has ended what was called the "Press Boycott" of the serious interests of thinking women-not their ribbons and ornaments, but their thoughts, aims, claims, views, hopes, deeds, and-Work.

"WOMAN'S PLATFORM" in The Standard has already become the Thinking Woman's own medium in the Daily Press of Great Britain. All thinking women modern women, are keenly interested in "WOMAN'S PLATFORM." They know that it is their own; they themselves determine how much it can serve their own interests by :-

1. Following "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" closely and day by day in The Standard, and using it

freely in women's interests, as opportunity offers.

2. Inducing the largest possible number of the general public—men and women—to do the same thing, thus extending the scope of its services to women.

The Standard, 104 Shoe Lane, LONDON, E.C.



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Monday, Feb. 5, 1912.

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BRANCH NOTES.

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

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Anerley and Crystal Palace.—Hon. Secretary 1 Miss J. Fennings, 149, Croydon-road.

All members are urged to give what they can towards the special levy fund, even if they do not wish to take a collecting-box, so that we may have a good sum to send up for our third monthly contribution. Our next meeting will probably be on Thursday, February 15, at 3 p.m.

Croydon.—Office: 32A, The Arcade, High-street; Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TERBY, 9, Morland-avenue.

Secretary t Mrs. Terry, 9, Morland-avenue.

Next Friday, February 2, our speaker at the weekly "At Home" will be Mrs. Betham, her subject being "Jane Eyre, with its Relation to the Woman's Movement." It will be most interesting. We hope that members will bring friends to hear the lecture. Atour last "At Home" there was, as usual, a good attendance, and all were greatly interested in Miss Munro's address on "The Woman of To-day." The lecturer illustrated her remarks by two of Mrs. Perkins Gilman's poems. Miss Mary Pearson afterwards recited another poem by the same author, which was greatly appreciated.

Hampstead Garden Suburb .- Hon. Secretary & Mrs. Betham,

A business meeting was held on Tuesday in last week at Dr. Vickery's house, when Mrs. Drysdale was selected as delegate to the Conference. It is earnestly hoped that every member will do her utmost to secure new members for our Branch, as it is important that we should grow very much larger in numbers during the coming year.

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

On Sunday, January 21, Mrs. Tanner kindly opened a dis-ussion at the South London Ethical Societies' Debating Circle cussion at the South London Ethical Societies' Debating Circle at 60, Lyndhurst-road, Peckham, in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. B. H. Jones, and gave an interesting address on the "Political Situation" in respect to Woman Suffrage. An animated discussion took place, and the following resolution was passed unanimously; "This meeting calls upon the Government to include women on the same terms as men in any Bill relating to the Suffrage, and urges the Member of Parliament for the district to support such a proposal." On Monday, January 22, a members' meeting was held at 199, Norwoodroad; plans for local propaganda were discussed. It was proposed that sewing meetings should be held fortnightly, if possible, in anticipation of the sale of work. Two members kindly promised to lend their rooms for this purpose. The first meeting will be held at 179, Clive-road, Dulwich, on Thursday, February 8, at 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. We hope members will attend in force. Members and friends are cordially invited to attend the drawing-room meeting at 170, Peckham Rye, on Thursday, February 1, at 3.30 p.m., when Dr. Alice D. Vickery will speak.

Mid-London.-Hon. Secretary , Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-

avenue, Ealing, W.

I hope there will be a large attendance at our annual members' meeting on February 12, at 7 p.m., at 1, Robert-street, when after the Branch business is concluded, the delegates to Conference will give their report. We must also work hard to ensure a great success for the meeting organised by the London Branches Council on February 15. The Branch Committee called for February 6, at 7 p.m. at 1, Robert-street, is postponed until Thursday, 8th, at the same time and place.

Peckham, 23, Albert-ROAD.—Joint Hon. Secretaries (pro tem).
Mrs. Pickering and Miss Anson.

Mrs. PICKERING and Mrs ANSON.

We have important vacancies still to fill. Required, "literature captain," "local press captain," and "street organiser."

Latter might suit a somewhat inactive member as it can all be done at home, and consists of carefully preparing from plan, routes for the chalking captain, for literature distributors and processions so as to cover all important points with minimum effort.

Tottenham .- Hon. Secretary: Miss F. Eggett, 30, Lau-

The Branch will hold a jumble sale at the end of February Will members kindly send contributions to 91, Mount Pleasant-

SOUTH OF ENGLAND .- Brighton and Hove .- Hon.

Scoretary: Miss Harrs, 8, San Remo, Hove.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7, by kind invitation of Mrs. Budd at Nurnberg, Palmeira-avenue, Hove, at 6.30 pm. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance to hear the delegates' report.

PROVINCES.—Sheffield.—Hon. Secretary: Miss S. G. BARNETT, 5, Victoria Flats, Glossop-road.

A Branch meeting was held on Monday, January 22, in the Nether School. Resolutions for Conference were discussed, and our delegate instructed with regard to them. A financial report was given by the treasurer of our recent "At Home"; she gave us the welcome news that the profit amounted to more than for C. Warneson.

Our Burns Night has been universally voted a great success. A fuller account will appear next week. In the meantime, we wish to express to Mrs. Sproson, to the singers who contributed to the Burns Concert, to the friends who assisted in the tableaux and to Miss Simpson, the pianist, our very hearty thanks for a delightful evening.—Helen McLachlan, Asst. Secretary.

Glasgow.—Suffrage Centre: 302, Sauchiehall-street. Hon. Secretary: Miss Mina Stevens. Hon. Treasurer: Miss

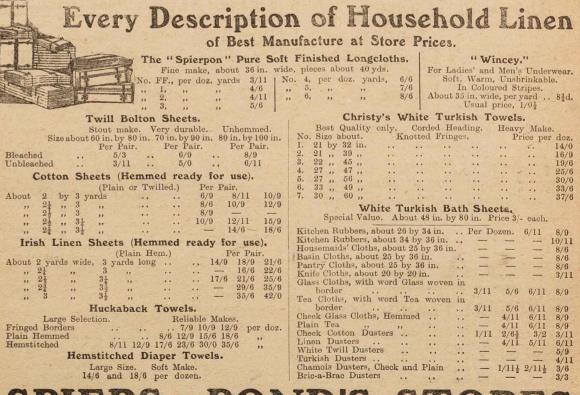
The Branch meeting on Thursday will be addressed by Miss Eunice Murray; her subject being "Pioneer Women." The delegates to the Conference will also give a report. We hope all members and friends will make an effort to be present. On Saturday, February 17, the monthly "At Home" will be held when Mrs. Wilson is to be the speaker.

WALES AND MONMOUTH .- Swansea .- Hon. Organising Secretary: Mrs. Knight, 23, Walter-road. Hon. Corresponding Secretary: Miss Phipps, B.A., 5, Grosvenor-road.

Secretary: Miss Phipps, B.A., 5, Grosvenor-road.

Our Branch has had a very active fortnight. Many members have been busy distributing bills to announce our Mass Meeting. Mrs. Ross has been alone to Carmarthen and Llanelly to explain the W.F.L. policy. Miss Salmon and her sub-committee have completed the library scheme; they have a splendid list of books, which may be borrowed at a charge of 3d. per volume per fortnight. A well-attended Branch meeting was held on the 24th inst., when the Rev. J. H. Sandheim gave a scholarly and logical lecture on "Woman and Judaism," showing that, though an Oriental race, the Jews had never held Eastern theories as to the subjection of women.

A FEATURE OF THE MATINEE WHICH IS BEING GIVEN BY THE WOMEN WRITERS' SUFFRAGE LEAGUE at the New Princes Theatre on Friday, February 9, is the famous Trafalgar-square scene from Votes for Women, by Elizabeth Robins, in which Miss Dorothy Minto and Miss Agnes Thomas will sustain their original parts, and Miss Lilian Braithwaite will play Vida Levering and Mr. Mark Hannan the Chairman. The production will be in the hands of Mr. Harold Chapin. In Miss Elizabeth Baker's comedy, Edith, the heroine will be Miss Lena Ashwell. Many well-known actresses have undertaken to appear in the Shakespeare Pageant.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Thurs., Feb. 1.—KENSINGTON BRANCH
SPEAKERS' CLASS, 53, Drayton-gardens,
8 p.m., conducted by Miss Boyle, on
"My Impressions of the Conference."
DRAWING ROOM MEETING, 170, Peckham
Rye, 3.30 p.m., Dr. Alice Vickery.
Fri., Feb. 2.—CROYDON WEEKLY "AT
HOME," 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Betham.
Mon., Feb. 5.—Uxbridge, Brockfield's
Restaurant, 8 p.m. Miss Leah Anson on
"The Insurance Act."
Tues., Feb. 6.—Discussion Meeting,
Gardenia Restaurant, 6, Catherine-street,
W.C. (next door to Drury Lane Theatre),
8 p.m. Mrs. Betham on "Jane Eyre' and Its Relation to
the Woman's Movement." West Hampstead Branch Weekly
Meeting, 23, Pandora-road. 8.30 p.m.
Thur., Feb. 8.—Herne-hill Branch Sewing Meeting,
179, Clive-road, Dulwich. 3.30 p.m. Public Meeting, Warmington House, High-street, Tottenham, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.
Fri., Feb. 9.—Croydon Weekly "At Home," 3.30 p.m.
Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.
Mon., Feb. 12.—Mid-London Branch Members' Annual
Meeting, 1, Robert-street, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 15.—Canton Hall, Westminster, Public Meeting,
8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Zangwill, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Neilans,
and others.
Fri., Feb. 16.—Croydon Weekly "At Home," 3.30 p.m.,

8 p.m. Mr. and others

Feb. 16.—CROYDON WEEKLY "At Home," 3.30 p.m., Mrs

rs. Bailie.

Sat., Feb. 17.—Hard-Up Social, Gardenia Restaurant 30 p.m.

Tues., Feb. 20.—Discussion Meeting, Gardenia Restaurant, p.m. Mrs. Brownlow on "Women in Local Government." Fri., Feb. 23.—Croydon Weekly "At Home," 3.30 p.m. Navinson

Tues., March 5.—Meeting at Laverick's Dairy, 97A, Ryelane, Peckham. Mrs. Despard.

PROVINCES.

Wed., Feb. 7.—Hove. Branch Meeting at Nurnberg, Palmeira-avenue. 6.30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 11.—Middlesbrough, Free Christians Church.
Mrs. Schofield Coates on "The Moral Significance of the Woman's Meteorote".

WALES.

Thurs., Feb. 1.—LLANIDLOES, Bethel Hall. Mrs. Despard, Ed. Powell, Esq., J.P., Miss Alix Clark. Chairman: A. E. O. Humphreys-Owen, Esq. Fri. Feb. 9.—Machynlleth, Town Hall. Mrs. Despard, Miss A. M. Clark, Ed. Powell, Esq., J.P. Chairman: Rev. Fred Davies, M.A.

Thurs., Feb. 8.—GILFILLAN HALL, & p.m. Report of Con-rence. Miss Husband.

Thurs., Feb. 22.—GILFILLAN HALL, & p.m. R. Blackwood, sq., "Woman in Scottish Song." Admission 3d.

EDINBURGH Wed., Feb. 7.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, 8 p.m. Report of Delegate to Conference, Miss A. B. Jack.

GLASGOW.
Thurs., Feb. 1.—Branch Meeting at 8 p.m. Miss Eunice
Murray on "Pioneer Women."
Tues., Feb. 6.—Sydney Place
Debate on "Women's Suffrage."
Leader: Miss Semple.
Sun., Feb. 11.—Ewing-place,
Parkhead. 4 p.m. Miss
Shennan.

Shennan.

Wed., Feb. 14.—Port Glasgow. Speaker: Miss Semple.

Members and friends are informed that copies of the photograph of Mrs. Despard receiving the delegates to the Gonference can be obtained at the cost of Is. each. Apply to the Secretary, Vote Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.



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