

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. I.—No. 5.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1909.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

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

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## WHAT WE THINK.

The trial of Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans will be followed, we know, with intense interest by all women who are in earnest in the struggle for political liberty. The logical nature of the ballot-box protest, the effective blow that it dealt, not at persons, but at the political machinery, the calm and unshrinking way in which it was carried out, all helped to render it the most dramatic action the militants have yet achieved. The national bill for the protection of Cabinet Ministers is already something to shudder at, but it is not for unrepresented taxpayers to have qualms about the national expenditure. We aim now at so hampering the wheels of government that all political action shall need special protection—and special police pay.

And if in bringing this about a price is demanded others will be found just as ready to pay it as our two heroines of to-day.

The Women's Freedom League sent a deputation to the Edinburgh Town Council last week to protest against the granting of the freedom of the city to Mr. Asquith. They initiated this form of protest some months ago in Glasgow, and will no doubt follow it up by vigorous action when the proper time comes. We welcome the co-operation of the other societies, which on this occasion also sent deputations, but the mere coupling of the words "Asquith" and "freedom" should be enough to stir any but the veriest type of feminine door-mat to angry protestation.

An account of the treatment accorded to the deputation is reported in another column.

Mr. Belfort Bax's attention is respectfully drawn to the following flagrant case of favouritism to women on the part of the law:—

On November 15th, some medical students made a protest against a professional grievance by breaking several windows in the shop of Dr. Bodie, in Blackfriars Road. It is further stated that they used insulting words, shouted violently, and swept along the roads arm-in-arm, pushing people off the pavement. They were charged with obstruction and breaches of the peace. The

magistrate told them they were "as bad as Suffragettes," and added injury to insult by inflicting fines of 5s. upon five of them.

On November 10th two women made a protest against a political grievance by breaking one window at the Guildhall. Both were fined £5, and ordered to pay £2 10s. each for the damage, or go to prison for one month with hard labour.

The magistrate who fined the students with such unwarrantable severity is the same who showed such leniency to Miss Neilans on October 28th of last year by sentencing her to a month's imprisonment for being in the vicinity of the House of Commons and refusing to "pass along" quickly enough at the request of a plain-clothes policeman.

At the forty-third Annual Conference of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations, held in Manchester last week, Mr. Arthur Chapman moved the following amendment to two resolutions which were in favour of extending the Parliamentary Franchise to women:—

That this conference does not favour any extension of womanhood Suffrage at the present time; and for two reasons (amongst others)—namely (1) that the exercise of the emotional instincts of women as a great influence in the increasingly difficult political position, both at home and abroad, would be dangerous to the State; (2) that such extension would instal the present Suffragette tactics as a permanent method of political warfare.

As an interesting comment on the above, it is to be hoped that an account of a meeting that was held in Horley recently may meet Mr. Chapman's eye. We are told that "the meeting broke up in disorder. Numbers of windows were smashed, and the furniture was broken up. Perfect pandemonium reigned—yells and cat-calls resounded, free fights took place, and finally a general scrimmage like a Rugby football match occurred." Apparently the only thing that stamps the scene as one *not* having been caused by the emotional instincts of women is the fact that "no arrests took place, and no names of the organised gang could be obtained." The account of the meeting is headed "Hooligans in Politics," a singular oversight on the part of the editor. Mr. Chapman should write and point out that it should have been "Outraged voters show their manly resentment against Mr. Ure."

At the annual meeting of the National Federation of Women Workers, held on Saturday last, under the presidency of Miss Mary Macarthur, a resolution in favour of adult Suffrage was passed. The President said if the limited Bill which the Suffragists were fighting for passed it would remove the disqualification of a number of women, but not of the working women.

How much longer will women allow themselves to be gulled by such statements as these? Adult Suffrage means "Votes for *all* men certain, and for women—perhaps." Are women likely to fare better when the basis of representation has been made one of *sex* pure and simple? They do—at least some of them—fulfil the necessary qualifications now, absurd and anomalous as they may be. And we are more inclined to accept Mr.

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Keir Hardie's estimate that the percentage of working women who would be enfranchised under the so-called "limited" Bill would be 82.5 rather than Miss Macarthur's 70.

The *Times* of November 19th contains a long and interesting letter from Lady Stout, of New Zealand, in which she claims that votes for women have been an unqualified success in that country. She takes the familiar objections of the "antis," turns the light of experience upon them, and shows them to be just the crudely-coloured, turnip-head "bogeys" that every sensible person has always known them to be. M. H.

#### TWO IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS.

This resolution was passed by the Committee of the Men's League at a meeting on Thursday, November 18th:—

"That this League, which was formed to promote the Enfranchisement of Women, and which has persistently worked for that object by united action among its members, and by giving all possible help to other societies having a similar object in view, resolves to adhere to this line of action and to maintain its attitude of strict neutrality in regard to the policy of other societies.

"Whilst holding most strongly the aforesaid opinion, it cannot but express its deep regret and anxiety at the action of the present Liberal Government in refusing to recognise in the early stages of the militant movement the political nature of the technical offences which supporters of the movement have committed by placing such offenders in the First Division. We further feel, and must regretfully record our opinion, that the forcible feeding of women political prisoners is the outcome of this want of discrimination, and that therefore grave responsibility rests with the Government for this deplorable condition of affairs."

The following resolution was passed by a large majority at a meeting of the members of the Fabian Society on November 12th:—

That in view of the surrender of the Home Office to Lady Constance Lytton on the evident ground that forcible feeding is an outrage too disgusting to be offered to a woman of rank, this meeting assures the Government that public opinion makes no such class distinction and is equally revolted when the same outrage is offered to poorer women. Also, that the meeting recognises that the discontinuance of forcible feeding will compel the Government to choose between allowing the prisoners to starve to death and allowing the law to be defeated. It therefore invites the Government to avoid this intolerable situation by giving the Suffragists the assurances they demand and giving them the benefit of any distinctions that may be in use between different classes of prisoners.

As we go to press we learn that the Home Secretary has sent an indignant repudiation of the charges contained in the above resolution, and justifies the continuance of the forcible feeding.

#### MR. ASQUITH AND THE FREEDOM OF EDINBURGH.

The "event of the week" here has been the decision of the Town Council to confer upon Mr. Asquith the freedom of the City and the Suffrage protest against the implied insult to the women ratepayers of Edinburgh. It was only announced on Saturday that the Lord Provost's Committee would consider the motion on Monday, and in Monday's newspapers there appeared the following letters from the Women's Freedom League and the Men's League:—

Honourable Sir,

As honorary secretary of the Edinburgh Central Branch of the Women's Freedom League, a body

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of women organised to work for the granting of citizenship rights to the women of this country on the same terms as men have them, I write, in name of our members, to protest against the proposal which is to be brought before your Committee on Monday to grant the freedom of this city to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Asquith, since he took up office as Prime Minister, has so persistently insulted the women of this country by ignoring their rightful claim as subjects to petition the King or his responsible Minister, that we submit that Mr. Asquith is unworthy of the high honour of being enrolled as a citizen of this ancient city, which ever has been in the forefront of any struggle for freedom, whether religious, civil, or political.

The present discontent amongst women because of Mr. Asquith's attitude to their claims must be an unpleasant note in any such ceremony, and we propose, therefore, that the granting of this honour be delayed until such time as the citizens, men and women alike, will be able to esteem him worthy.

Your obedient servant,

ALEXIA B. JACK, Hon. Sec., W.F.L.

The Committee of the Edinburgh Men's League for Women's Suffrage sent the following letter of protest to the Town Clerk:—

Sir,—The committee of the Edinburgh Men's League for Women's Suffrage desire to express their strong sense of the inopportunity of the present moment for the conferring of the freedom of the City of Edinburgh on the Right Honourable Herbert Asquith, M.P., Prime Minister, and beg that you will bring their protest before the Lord Provost's Committee at its meeting on Monday.

As citizens of Edinburgh and as representatives of the Men's League, we beg to submit the following reasons for our protest in this matter.

1. That the present disregard of law and order on the part of many women and the consequent deplorable circumstances of suffering and distress, are directly due to his attitude with regard to the just demand made by the women.

2. That his treatment of women has in this matter been lacking in courtesy and humanity.—We remain, sir, yours faithfully,

FRANK MORLEY FLETCHER, President.  
W. W. TAYLOR, Secretary.

On Tuesday, when the proposal came before the Council, Suffragists and Suffragettes alike sent deputations to put the women's point of view before the City Fathers. One speaker was allowed to each of the four societies present. The following is from the *Evening News*:—

"Miss Alexia Jack, of the Women's Freedom League, said she belonged to a militant body, whose grievances were those spoken of by Miss Mair. They had another grievance, however, because Mr. Asquith had absolutely refused to receive a petition from them for presentation to the King. The League 'pickets' had waited for fifteen weeks, aggregating 10,000 hours, at the gate of the House of Commons, to get Mr. Asquith to receive the petition, but he had ignored them absolutely in their claim. Therefore they declared Mr. Asquith had insulted the women of this country. Speaking for the ratepayers, she most emphatically protested against their money being used for the presentation of the freedom to Mr. Asquith, who had not proved himself a wise statesman in his treatment of women. He did not understand the meaning of citizenship or of freedom."

There can be no doubt that the prompt and unanimous action of the Suffrage societies has done much to bring home to Edinburgh people the reality of the movement, even although the protest failed in its immediate object.

#### WOMEN VERSUS THE BUDGET.

WHY NOT RECLAIM YOUR INCOME-TAX FROM THE GOVERNMENT and give it to the Women's Freedom League? If your Income has been taxed before you get it, and does not exceed £700 yearly, you are entitled to recover a portion of the tax.

N.B.—Infants, Married Women and Lunatics are not so entitled. Consult Mrs. E. AYRES PURDIE, A.L.A.A., Certified Accountant and Income Tax Specialist, Craven House, Kingsway, W.C.

#### BOOTS FOR MEN.

A foreign correspondent of mine tells me of an interesting agitation that is now going on within the borders of an African tribe called the Womanli-Womanni (who are akin to the Manli-Manni).

In this half-civilised land it seems only women are allowed to wear boots in public, and man is compelled to walk delicately in sandals or go barefoot. But of late men have been protesting against this restriction, alleging that in face of modern conditions they can't get about their work ill-shod, and now the shrill cry of "Boots for Men" is heard on all sides.

The general common sense of the tribe favours the demand, I am told; but the High Council of the Womanli-Womanni, a small coterie of exemplary females (jeered at derisively by the profane as "a parcel of silly old men") has absolute power in the matter, and cares nothing for common sense.

An Anti-Boot Society has now come into existence, and, curiously enough, it is backed by a certain number of men who fear that boots will mean corns.

The main Anti-Boots argument is that the noble figure man has cut in the past will be ruined if he is allowed to wear boots, and that breeks, and not boots, are the privilege and the ensign of manhood.

A report of the first annual meeting of the Anti-Boots Society has just come to hand from my correspondent, and this conveys some idea of the strength of the opposition.

Mr. Humphry Ward, who presided, said he was proud to be known as a tenderfoot. The noblest of his sex had lived before boots were thought of, and he deplored the desire for notoriety in the present agitation among men. The study and the office were the true sphere of man, and boots were certainly not required in such places. He had no objection to boots in the back garden, but the boot was essentially a part of woman's public attire, and man would lose the respect of woman, and no longer do the work of the world, if he appeared in this strange garb.

Letters were then read from Mrs. Austen Ch—in, who wrote that free booters were nearly as bad as free fooders; and from Mr. Marius Corelli, who protested that all his power over women would be gone if men wore boots, and that the really refined and great among men hated the clumsy, effeminate footwear asked for by nasty, unsexed males.

Mrs. Belfort Bax also wrote that the shape of the male foot proved conclusively that it was not meant for boots. It was an inferior kind of foot altogether. Although Social Democrats throughout the world believed in "boots for all," she was right and they were wrong.

The Right Hon. Miss G. W. E. R—I moved the first resolution. Speaking as an old maid who had always moved in the best circles, she was convinced that patent leather shoes were the right thing for men. At the dinner table and at his club man was in his right element, and what man of taste would wear boots at dinner or profane the sanctity of the Reform Club by such strange apparel? Miss R. then charmed the audience with a number of amusing anecdotes concerning "Puss in Boots," and wound up with the declaration that her great leader, Mrs. Gladstone, had always opposed this demand of unruly men.

The Right Hon. Mrs. H. H. A—h seconded. She was tired of these troublesome boys who pestered her night and day about boots, when she was busy over a thousand other things. Neither Salome nor Herod wore boots. Why should men want them to-day? Her sympathies were with women in other lands, outside their own Empire, struggling to get boots—that was true Liberalism. Besides, it was all nonsense. Men didn't look better in boots, and that was enough. Felt slippers suited her husband. She exhorted her misguided male friends not to be silly.

The Countess of Cromer said nature never intended men to have boots. In Egypt there were no boots. A male in boots was a revolting spectacle; such a person would bring mud into the home.

Mrs. G. K. C. said neither her husband, nor her father, nor the butcher boy who called for orders wanted boots. They were content with shoes or slippers. People idolised boots. She wore them herself, but St. Paul never wore them, and he was a great traveller. The walking powers of man would be seriously impaired if he gave up slippers for boots. She was in favour of liberty for everyone, that is, liberty for everyone who was a woman.

Mrs. John Massie maintained that the principles of the Protestant religion were bound up with woman and not man being the boot-wearer. There was nothing in the Bible to support man's claim to share the privilege of boot-wearing with woman. It would make terrible confusion in the home if both sexes wore boots alike. There would be bitter disputes as to whose boots were to be cleaned first. The really nice men, the Simple Souls, were content with sandals.

The Right Hon. Mrs. John Burns believed that some day men might be allowed to have boots. But gold lace and Court dress really suited them better. Since her husband had been a Cabinet Minister he hadn't wanted boots; he had become too big for them. She doubted whether Shakespeare wore boots. The whole agitation was a fraud got up by the bootmakers.

The Hon. Miss Curzon said they were only male vixens who called out for boots because they couldn't get wives. Man's throne was the arm-chair by the fire; let him take to boots and go a-walking like women, and he would speedily lose his supremacy and the shape of his foot would be ruined. Besides, it wouldn't stop at boots. The man who was effeminate enough to want boots would want petticoats next. It would never do. Her experience in India had satisfied her that woman and woman alone could wear boots gracefully. Man was permitted to wear shoes—that should suffice.

Mrs. St. L. Strachey (Editor of the *Spectator*) was convinced that man was still a tiger—a tiger in trousers. Such an animal would never adapt himself to boots.

One lady, who "worked amongst the poor," pointed out how unfair it would be only to let those men wear boots who could afford to pay for them; boots for all or boots for women only was her motto.

Other speakers declared that men might kick if they had boots; that as men hadn't worn boots hitherto it was rash to make experiments; that it was only a trifling question of no real importance; and that the fuss men were making proved how unfit they were to walk in boots.

The resolution, which declared that the best interests of men and of the community would be ruined if men were allowed to wear boots was carried.

So the report ends.

I have since been informed that a moderate and constitutional "One Man One Boot" League has been formed to obtain a single boot for man; it is thought that he can fit himself for boots by learning to hop in one, and members of the High Council, it is believed, may be willing to accede to this in time.

I cannot help thinking my correspondent has got the names of the speakers wrong.

JOSEPH CLAYTON.

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## MRS. ETHEL SNOWDEN.

By ETHEL HILL.

The first impression you get when you see Mrs. Snowden is one of beauty and grace. But, apart from that, you cannot be in her presence for two minutes without realising that she is a personage. You feel her quiet strength, her reserve force as palpable facts, and from the very first you are influenced by the charm of her simplicity and sincerity. True sincerity is the most potent factor known to mankind in securing attention and deference, and that is the chief characteristic of Mrs. Snowden, aside from all her eloquence. A mass of fair, wavy hair surrounds a face at once placid and gentle and luminous. To an unusual degree she is possessed of that personal magnetism that immediately enlists sympathy, and no one, in her case, can feel any incompatibility in a handsome woman defending and urging great causes.

She was born at Harrogate, in Yorkshire, the daughter of a well-to-do builder, and had the benefit of the usual substantial middle-class education. Her didactic gift, which she uses to so much advantage now, was already asserting itself during her school days, and in consequence she was sent by her parents to the Liverpool Training College, with a view to becoming a school-mistress.

Upon her graduation from the Training College, she became a teacher in a school at Leeds, but her scholastic work did not long hold her exclusive attention. Very soon she became identified with the Labour Party, to which she has been of great assistance. One of the first movements she was identified with was in the nature of house-cleaning in the very bodies she was championing. She led a vigorous crusade against the heavy drinking in those days in Labour and Socialist clubs. The present-day strength, asserts Mr. Henry James Forman, of the Labour and Socialist parties in Parliament is due, in no small degree, to those endeavours of Mrs. Snowden. This work, moreover, brought about her acquaintance with Philip Snowden, whom she married in 1905.

She has a wide acquaintance among legislators, and has had much to do with shaping her husband's career. Often she has taken her husband's place before audiences whom, through invalidism, he could not meet, and it is recorded that on the evening after she was married Mrs. Snowden appeared before a large audience at a meeting to which he could not come. Since then Mrs. Snowden has spoken in almost every industrial centre of England, Scotland, and Wales. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Fabian Society, and of many other organisations of Socialistic bent, in all of which she is active. She even preaches a sermon now and then.

The subject of the Suffrage for Women is one very dear

to her heart, and she welcomes every opportunity to advocate it. Her ideal for women is a high one. Upon one occasion the programme did not move quite according to schedule, causing much loss of time, though it did not seem to be anybody's fault. It was a woman's assembly. Mrs. Snowden was troubled.

"If I were you," she said to the speaker of the meeting, "I should leave without speaking. We need lessons of that sort. Women are sometimes deficient in the sense of time."

Nevertheless, she is convinced that the Suffrage for Women must come, and that nothing can prevent it. For, as she says in one of her books, "The nation cannot afford to go on losing the intelligence, the energy, the culture, the affection, and the devotion of more than half its population. The country cannot prosper which does

not properly represent in its domestic, its administrative, and its legislative life the point of view of its womenkind. The State cannot spare from its high councils the deep wisdom of its mothers and the comradeship of its wives."

In the book already quoted Mrs. Snowden forecasts the future position of women voters:—

"Until they begin in great numbers to realise the power and responsibility of the vote they have won, many women will, doubtless, ask advice as to the use of their votes of their long-enfranchised male relations. But common-sense, far more than the exigencies of party, and the general good, far more than the fate of Governments, will guide the women of the future in placing their suffrages.

"The domestically-trained and religiously-developed minds of

women will move on lines of domestic and moral reform, and woe betide the adventurous profligate or ignorant upstart who ventures before their keen eyes or submits himself to their searching examination in his candidature for office. Men who would so aspire will have to be manly men with great ideas, with good records, and with the will to do righteously in all things, serving the State.

"The great country will be the country of free and honoured women joining hands with their men comrades in the service of their common cause and the land of their love":—

"Where women walk in public processions in the streets the same as men,  
Where they enter the public assembly and take places the same as men  
Where the city of the cleanliness of the sexes stands,  
Where the city of the healthiest fathers stands,  
Where the city of the best-bodied mothers stands,  
There the great city stands."



PHOTO REPRODUCED BY COURTESY OF MISS LENA CONNELL.

**Next Week: Mr. LAURENCE HOUSMAN.**

## GOSSIP.

"And they made a noise like crickets,  
A chattering wise and sweet."

W. B. YEATS.

### Mr. Runciman, "D.L."

Speaking at a meeting of the Women's Liberal Association at Batley, Yorkshire, last week, Mr. Runciman, President of the Board of Education, observed that "he was not sure that during the last four years the Bills which had been passed by the Government had not touched the interests of women on more points than they had touched the interests of men." Mr. Runciman surely deserves the title which we have affixed to his name, and which Walford Bodie, "M.D.," would be able to explain to him. Being probably well read in literature of sorts (since he is what he is), he will excuse a quotation from genial Butler:

"Quoth Hudibras: 'I smell a rat.  
Ralpho, thou dost prevaricate.'"

### Russian Woman Lawyer.

Russia is waking up. On Friday last a woman lawyer, Mme. Feischütz, appeared before a Russian Court of Justice to defend a prisoner who had been accused of stealing billiard balls. Up stood the Public Prosecutor and protested that women had no legal standing in the Law Courts. But the judges, after an hour's deliberation, decided that, since women were not mentioned in the list of inadmissible persons in the Russian Code, Mme. Feischütz should be heard. Again the Public Prosecutor "upped," and this time proceeded to leave the court as a protest against the indignity of pleading in the same court as a woman, but the presiding judge called him back and pointed out that in his haste to leave the building he had forgotten to ask his (the judge's) permission for so doing. Thus twice in the same day was the Public Prosecutor proved at fault in mere questions of procedure. The end of the matter was that the case was adjourned, and it remains to be seen if the Public Prosecutor can bring pressure to bear on the judges, and so prevent the lady from pleading.

### Acts for Actors.

We presume Mr. Seymour Hicks has a vote, and that he is not counted among the 40,000 miserable beings who lose their power of choosing Act-makers at decent periods, by shifting their little all from one borough into another. The reason for our presumption is that we find, at the close of a succulent interview with the great Beerthom and the protean Hicks, the following interesting announcement tucked into a paragraph in the *Daily Telegraph*:—"It is understood that the possibility of passing within the next fortnight a short Bill dealing only with the sketch question through Parliament has been brought under the notice of and been favourably considered by those qualified to force the measure to a successful issue." Why the question as to whether a music-hall turn shall last thirty or thirty-four minutes should be made of such national importance that the business of the House must be disorganised that it may have an easy and a rapid passage to a place amongst permanent statutes is hard to understand. In the Parliamentary history of this country, full of anomalies as it is, there is no parallel to this travesty of legislation: the traffickers in pleasure come to Westminster jingling caps and bells and out flock the representatives of the country to hear their wishes, while outside the gates women-workers whose welfare is of enormous importance to the economic position of England have stood for weary nights and days asking for a hearing and asking in vain. The great natural law of compensation is working, and the country is preparing its answer for those who have placed trivialities above the business of the nation—for its Prime Minister who gives his arm to a dancing-girl and his ear to a vaudeville-actor.

EZRA TWINKLE.

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	Per lb. 7 lb.		Per 1 lb. packet (S. & P.) ..
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Bold Good Colour ..	0/5 2/10	Per 7 lb. bag .....	2/0
Specially Large		" 14 lb. " .....	4/0
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## PRESS COMMENTS.

*Western Mail*.—"Is it not time that some strong protest were made against the habit of making a Woman Suffrage meeting an occasion for levity and violence? Woman Suffrage is a serious question, as serious as any of the political questions which in a well-ordered community call for calm and dispassionate consideration. The disorderly proceedings at Cardiff Docks yesterday, when Mr. D. A. Thomas, M.P., and Miss Muriel Matters were refused a hearing, must give rise to unpleasant reflections among the large and varied foreign community which resides in or resorts to that district. Are we ceasing to be a serious nation? Are we losing the habit of hard thinking and obstinate slowness in political action, and replacing it with buffoonery and cynicism? When protest has on some occasions been raised against these disgraceful proceedings the answer has been made, 'Well, they started it.' Those who have made the answer have been unconscious of its childishness. An outrage by a Suffragette is not an argument in favour of Woman Suffrage, and a retaliatory outrage is not an argument against it. The disorders at meetings held by ladies are often due to the tendency to regard the advocates of Woman Suffrage as 'fair game.' It may be a game, but it is not fair."

## "A Pretty Farce."

[The following leader from the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* rather gives the game of civic morality away. It should also prove a lesson to the women rate-payers of that city. But the advice at the end is quite superfluous—it is the system in universal use, and part of the system of humbug and insincerity that women are up in arms against.—ED.]

"It was a solemn farce that was enacted in Edinburgh Council Chamber yesterday when a band of Suffragettes were permitted to represent to the civic authority certain reasons why in their opinion the freedom of the capital of Scotland should not be conferred on the Prime Minister. Everybody knew that the Council was unanimous in favouring the proposition of the Lord Provost to do honour to a great statesman, and everybody was equally aware that these women, in asking to be received by deputation, were seizing what they rightly considered an excellent opportunity to advertise themselves. Their object was so obvious that, in spite of a courteous rule almost invariably observed by successive Councils never to refuse a deputation a hearing, it was only by the narrow majority of three votes that the women got their oar in at all. What the consequences might have been had the majority lain the other way it is impossible to say. The women were actually within the precincts of the City Chambers, where the sacred person of the newly-elected Lord Provost was virtually at their mercy, save in so far as his forty-nine brethren could have afforded him protection, and there is no saying what an answer to their petition in the negative would have resulted in. Perhaps our pawky Councilors suspected whips and things, and voted so as to give the women a bare majority.

"Lord Provost Brown has a sense of humour. He did not rise up in his wrath and condemn the slight these women were casting on a distinguished statesman. He let them ramble on, thanked them, invited them to lunch, got his motion passed unanimously against all their entreaties, then joined them at the hospitable board. Edinburgh Town Council has shown itself an example to the nation. Never struggle with these 'votes for women' bodies. Turn to them an indulgent ear, let them exhaust themselves rhetorically while you wear a sweet smile of resignation, feed them well, shake them by the hand with repeated protestations of sincere friendship, and when they turn the corner of the stair and are lost to view, give vent to the feelings, if need be, by silently imitating the eloquent example of a famous character in the *Ingoldsby Legends*, who, when occasion seemed to demand it, 'pnt his thumb up to his nose and spread his fingers out.'"



## TYPES OF ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.

(Dedicated to the A.S.S.)

No. 1.—THE MAN WHO SAYS HE WOULD "LIKE TO REVIVE THE DUCKING-STOOL."

## THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

(We have given the above heading to a contribution which reaches us only just in time for press. Having reserved space for it, we must publish it as it stands; but we fear that by some error the rough notes of our Parliamentary Correspondent have reached us instead of the carefully-weighted and judicial article we had been expecting.—ED., THE VOTE.)

Query: How is a political commentator to comment on a situation in which everyone is frantically busy doing nothing? (Except, of course, talking.) Two points seem to stand out clear, though:

1. Budget. Crushing blow to Constitution. (Vide Conservative speakers and writers.)

Conservative women, aghast but impotent, awaiting heroic if somewhat reluctant action by Lords.

2. Budget, Lords' motion to Reject. Crushing blow to Constitution. (Vide Liberal authorities.) Liberal women, torn between blowing Liberal precept and glaring illiberal practice, concluding that for the present their place is the home.

Prospect: Constitution crushed in any case. This is too terrible; must keep it dark and write about something else.

Happy thought (borrowed from daily papers)—

## Election Intelligence.

But there doesn't seem to be any—merely the usual preparations for more or less dishonest catching of the unintelligent vote by both sides. Better try another line. How about

## Prospects After General Election?

(A) If Conservatives come in. Surely Arthur Balfour would be too much of a gentleman to . . . (But I don't know. It's men, even more than gentlemen, that seem to be needed at present.)

(B) If Liberals come back. Same old business; getting worse and worse. Riots probable, eventually. Government meanly vindictive up to last moment. Edifying prospect.

\* \* \* \* \*

But General Election may fizzle out after all. Or both sides, in mortal terror at bogeys of own creation—vitriol, dynamite, hat-pins—may decline office, leaving Permanent Under-Secretaries to look after country. Vast relief of country. P.U.S.'s, being sensible, businesslike people for the most part, would hold committee and excise the word "male" from rule as to voter's qualification—and there we should be.

\* \* \* \* \*

Must have one more look through party journals—some grain of truth may have escaped vigilance of staff.

[At this point the communication breaks off.—ED.]

## THE BALLOT-BOX PROTEST.

An application was made at the New Bailey on Thursday last for an adjournment of the cases of Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans in order that Mr. Thorley's eye may be entirely recovered and the issue be kept clear. Miss Bennett and Mrs. How Martyn, after some difficulty, obtained admission to the building, but were absolutely refused admission to the court. Orders had been given that no women were to be admitted to any of the courts.

The account of the proceedings given below is taken from the *Times* :—

(Before the Recorder.)

## The Bermondsey Election.

Mr. C. F. Gill, K.C., who appeared for the defence, said that there were two cases committed for trial at these sessions—one against Alice Chapin and the other against Alison Neilans—arising out of an incident which occurred at the Bermondsey election with regard to interference with a ballot-box. In connection with that there was an injury caused to Mr. Thorley, the official who was in charge of the voting station. One of the defendants (Chapin) was indicted for inflicting grievous bodily harm on Mr. Thorley and for an assault causing him actual bodily harm. The defendants were members of an association called "The Women's Freedom League," the members of which were strongly opposed to anything like an attempt at personal violence, and they dissociated themselves from any such action and disapproved of it. This charge, therefore, was one of considerable importance. He applied that the case should stand over until the next sessions. With regard to the injury to Mr. Thorley, that gentleman had stated that the matter was purely accidental and that he was satisfied that the woman had no intention of injuring him.

The Recorder: She is only charged with misdemeanour and not with wounding with intent.

Mr. Gill said that he only had the indictment that day. She was charged with assaulting Mr. Thorley, thereby causing him actual bodily harm, and with unlawfully and maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm upon him.

The Recorder: Has Mr. Thorley recovered?

Mr. Gill: That is just the point in regard to which we are desirous of having an adjournment. There was a qualified expression of opinion whether what was done would cause him permanent injury. The medical man who examined him at the instance of the defendant was of opinion that an interval of two or three weeks would demonstrate that there would be no permanent injury. The Recorder: The only question on that indictment would be whether what was done was done in pursuance of an unlawful act.

Mr. Gill: I do not want to argue that now. My view is that a case similar to this has never yet been tried, and that it will have to be decided on other principles. I submit that this is a case where the actual position would be very much better ascertained when there is an opportunity of knowing whether there is any permanent injury at all.

Mr. Muir, appearing for the Director of Public Prosecutions, submitted that no ground for a postponement of the trials had been made out. The question whether the injury inflicted would cause a permanent defect of vision was immaterial. The cases were very short; at the police court one of them only lasted an hour and a half, and the other half an hour.

Mr. Gill, in reply, read an affidavit in support of the application, in which it was stated that the defendant was advised by an oculist that no permanent injury would result.

The Recorder said that he did not think any ground had been made out for a postponement of the case. Mr. Justice Grantham had expressed a wish that the case should be placed in his list, and Mr. Gill could apply to the learned Judge to fix a day for the hearing.

The trial will take place on November 24th.

We shall publish a full report of the trial in our next week's issue.

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Cadogan Hotel, Sloane Street.  
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Bickley, Kent.  
"I am very pleased with my Coat and Skirt."—July 4th, 1906.  
Green Street, W.  
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Many seasonable gifts are being shown at Messrs. Debenham and Freebody's, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Street, and among them charming knitted coats in different lengths, from the ordinary golf coat to the full-length driving or travelling coat. Messrs. Debenham and Freebody are willing to send goods on "appro." and their catalogue, which can be had on application, contains many original and useful suggestions for day and evening wear.

## At Spiers and Pond's.

Christmas puddings in all weights and sizes, mince-meat and grocer's fruits of all kinds are amongst the seasonable goods that find place in Messrs. Spiers and Pond's grocery department in their great stores in Queen Victoria Street, E.C. The catalogue, rich in suggestions from all departments, will be sent post free on application, and is worth studying before the rush of Christmas business begins.

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### OUR WORK—GRAVE AND GAY.

The distinction between a militant and a peaceful society is that the proceedings of the former are necessarily secret: we cannot reveal our plans to the enemy, and so we must keep them from our friends. We may have been elaborating a plan for a couple of years—we may have rejected others which we thought almost as good. Then we proceed to work out the details and allot their tasks to our splendid volunteers, and the action comes on friend and foe alike as a bolt from the blue. I have nothing to say here about the foe, but I should like to suggest to friends that if they are inclined to find fault they should restrain themselves until they have had time to go through the thought-processes which have led to the plan's adoption. We are duly thankful for those who hail each fresh effort as the finest thing which has been done yet and wait and watch for new heights to be reached, new deeds to be thankful for.

Lately I heard a clergyman draw attention to the number of things which were crimes now but had not been when he was young. The crimes for which the Women's Freedom League is answerable are of this class. In free England it has never been a crime to ask for liberty, insistently if necessary, backing up one's words with deeds. The march of events has made what used to be a great event, fraught with hopes and possibilities, into a great crime. A general election should give to all who will have to obey the laws the new Parliament will make a chance to choose some Member of that Parliament pledged to champion their interests, whom they will be in a position to control. When we read in the *Labour Leader*, the *Morning Post*, the *Nation*, &c., of the plans and hopes of different parties from the coming struggle we must, I think, be strengthened in our attitude of revolt against our position of outlawry. It is a revolt which must cost us much in both money and service. May I urge those who really cannot give service to keep their enthusiasm alive by giving money freely. I must not enlarge on the point that money is service. The services and enjoyments which parents or relations denied themselves have provided some of you with money, which gives you the power to command services for yourself . . . or the Women's Freedom League! Which shall it be? I think I can assure you it will be both if you spend all you possibly can on the Albert Hall Festival on December 11th. The Women's Pageant or Bernard Shaw's play, or half a dozen other items, should suffice alone to draw a "full house." Then you cannot elsewhere see stars of the magnitude of Ellen Terry, Margaret Halstan, Mrs. Langtry—on one day and for such small sums. And to pass from enjoyments to serious interests, we are to have an address—certainly brilliant, and probably full of new and weighty arguments—from Mr. Israel Zangwill; words of wisdom and charm and inspiration from Mrs. Billington-Greig, restored to us after her serious illness; and our President, Mrs. Despard, will be with us.

SARAH BENETT.

### SCOTTISH NOTES.

Head Offices: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.  
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. JULIA WOOD.  
Office Secretary: Miss KIRBY.  
Organisers: MISS ANNA MUNRO, MISS OLIVE ROBERTSON.  
Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 5905 Royal.

**The £1,000 Fund.**—The Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Council of the W.F.L. appeals to Scottish readers of THE VOTE for contributions to the £1,000 Fund.

The Scottish Council is anxious to be self-supporting, and so relieve the Central Organisation in London of burdens which it has, up till now, had to bear on behalf of Scotland at times of more than usual activity, such as bye-elections.

Also the demands upon the resources of the Scottish Council are steadily increasing with the marked and rapid development of the League in Scotland.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Mrs. Gordon	2 8 8	Mrs. Isabella Low	0 3 6
Collected at Lord Provost's luncheon (per Mrs. Montgomery, Glasgow)	0 5 0	Miss C. S. Thomson	0 11 6
Mrs. Collins	0 2 0	A. C. Wood, Esq.	5 0 0
Miss Stirton	0 5 0	Miss E. Murray	1 6 0
Miss Meredith	0 1 2	Mrs. Julia Wood	0 11 0
Miss Mary Barclay	0 5 0	Miss McCallum	1 1 0
Miss M. Jolly, M.A.	0 15 1	Miss Semple	0 4 6
Miss A. L. Catto	0 4 0	Per Miss Wallace	0 2 9
Miss H. Lauder	0 5 0	Miss E. S. Hamilton	0 2 6
Mrs. H. Mellor	0 2 0	Small sums	1 8 4
Western Branch, Glasgow	3 0 0	Total	18 7 6
Miss K. R. Moffatt, Edinburgh	0 5 0	Amount previously acknowledged	156 0 11
		Grand total	£174 8 5

Further subscriptions will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Julia Wood, W.F.L., 30, Gordon Street, Glasgow.

**The Suffrage Centre.**—Arrangements are now well in hand for the opening of the fine premises secured by the League at 302, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, as a Suffrage Centre. The place is now in the hands of the painters, and is to emerge clean as a new pin for the first gathering of friends and members on Wednesday, December 1st.

The Centre Committee has spent time and thought and money on its plans, which presage a certain success. The Hon. Treasurer of the Suffrage Centre Fund, Miss M. N. Findlay, looks forward to having an ever-increasing and increasing revenue from the various departments which are to be established. The Literature Department is to be a special feature. Our own literature is to come first, but all kinds of books interesting to women are to be stocked, especially those dealing with reform and emancipation. The co-operation of some leading Scottish women artists and handicraft workers has been secured, and all kinds of artistic work—painting, metal work, embroidery, leather work, and jewellery—are to be on exhibition and sale. In addition to this, Suffrage afternoon teas are to be provided, and a home-made sweet department is to be run for the good of the Cause.

Money and promises have come in fairly well. About £70 has been received up to date, but another £50 will be needed. Friends are asked to make a special effort, so that the new Centre Committee may start its work free from financial worry. The venture is creating much interest among members, and several branches have already given special assistance.

**Glasgow and District.**—Paisley is still a centre of our activities. On Friday we held an overflowing social meeting of members and friends. A very pleasant evening was spent, profitable also, as several new members were gained. Miss Munro presided, and Miss Bunten gave a vivid description of her recent London experiences, which was heartily appreciated by the audience. The tea was provided by Mrs. Wood, our Scottish Treasurer, and served by Mrs. McGregor, Miss Brown, Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Sloan, and local members, while Miss Hill took charge of the literature. The open-air meetings were rather unfortunate on Saturday. Our crowds became so large that not only was the road blocked, but the shop-doors as well. Miss Munro was the speaker, Miss Sloan and Miss Hill presiding, while Miss Brown helped generally.

Miss Semple took the affirmative in a debate in the Govan Young People's Union. Her clear and logical exposition for the women won the debate by an overwhelming majority.

Our efforts for some time past have been directed towards making our latest venture, the dramatic entertainment in the Athenæum on Friday evening, a great success. Possibly the criticism of the *Glasgow Herald* is the best gauge of the result. "The advocates of the suffrage for women are nothing if not enterprising, and there seems to be no limit to their ideas intended to advance 'the Cause.' Under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League a dramatic entertainment was given last evening in the Athenæum Hall, Glasgow. The programme was made up of two pieces, 'Till the Bells Ring,' and Miss Cicely Hamilton and Mr. Christopher St. John's one-act play, 'How the Vote was Won,' performed by Mr. Stuart Forbes's company. Both were effectively presented, and were cordially received by a large and sympathetic audience. 'How the Vote was Won' is brightly written, and is likely to carry

conviction more readily than argumentative speeches. It bubbles over with fun, and if all political questions were treated as cleverly and as wittily controversy would be in danger of disappearing in laughter."

**Dundee.**—An "At Home" was held on Tuesday last in connection with the Dundee Branch. There was a good turnout, and some new members were added. Mrs. Allan and Miss Smart gave interesting accounts of a conference under the auspices of the Scottish Women's Trades Council which they had attended in Glasgow. In view of an early election it was decided to have a jumble sale and a cake and candy sale to provide funds for carrying on the work then.

Our Secretary, Miss Clunas, made an effective protest at a concert at Auchterarder, presided over by Mr. Haldane, and afterwards addressed a very sympathetic crowd. J. A. SMART.

### FUTURE EVENTS IN SCOTLAND.

Tues., Nov. 30th "At Home," Cafe Vegetaria, Edinburgh: Miss Isabel Hamilton, L.L.A., 8 p.m.  
Sat., Dec. 4th "At Home," Ewing Galleries, Glasgow: Mr. Joseph McCabe, 7-10.  
Tues., Dec. 7th Oak Hall, Edinburgh Cafe: Annual Social; Dramatic Sketches, 7-15; Scene from "Cranford," Suffragette Trial.

### LONDON ACTIVITIES.

Hon. Organiser: MRS. BORRMANN WELLS.

### YULETIDE FESTIVAL, ROYAL ALBERT HALL.

Preparations for the great Yuletide Festival are going full steam ahead. Everyone is entering into it with splendid enthusiasm. We may safely prophesy an enormous success and a substantial addition to the war chest as a result. But no one can afford to relax her efforts. There are still tickets to be disposed of, still advertising and work of all sorts to be done. Stewards are wanted; the hall is to be decorated.

Don't forget the enormous attractions we offer. Remember "Press Cuttings" by G. Bernard Shaw. Remember the magnificent "Women's Pageant" that Miss Craig is arranging. Remember the new plays by celebrated authors. Remember the speeches by celebrated speakers. Remember the brilliant artists who have promised to help us. And remember that it rests with each of our members to make the Festival a success worthy of the Women's Freedom League.

### MIND YOU HELP THE FIRST SUFFRAGE XMAS TREE AND MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

#### HOW TO DO IT:—

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- 2.—Send for Bills and distribute them.
- 3.—Talk to Everybody about it—Men, Women, and Children.
- 4.—Get all the Fathers you know to buy Xmas Tree Tickets, 6d. and 1/-.
- 5.—Send me a List of the things you are giving to the Tree.
- 6.—If it is less trouble Send me Money and I will buy the things, but I prefer Presents.

REMEMBER—MRS. DESPARD, helped by the Fairy Queen and her Court, WILL DISTRIBUTE THE PRESENTS.

SIME SERUYA, W.F.L.

P.S.—I FORGOT—I WANT A TREE FOR THE PRESENTS YOU ARE GOING TO SEND! A NICE LARGE TREE!! S. S.

### Stewards for the Albert Hall.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

Madam,—Please allow me again to draw attention to the fact that a large number of stewards will be needed for the Albert Hall on December 11th. I should be glad to hear, without delay, from any ladies who are prepared to serve in this capacity. I have had offers for this from about twenty ladies in answer to my letter in last week's VOTE, but many more are required.

There are a certain number of ladies who steward for me at the Portman Rooms, and these may not think it necessary to write, but I should like to remind them that it is important that any who are able to come to the Albert Hall on December 11th should write to me, for I have not yet received from them offers for anything but the weekly meetings and should not know who is available for December 11th.

I am inviting those ladies who have up to now written

to me to meet me at Alan's Tea Rooms (near Oxford Circus) on Friday, the 26th inst., between six and eight p.m., to discuss the arrangements for December 11th; and if any ladies who have not already written and who are willing to act as stewards at the Albert Hall will come to this "At Home" I shall be very pleased to see them.— Faithfully yours, ENNIS RICHMOND.  
West Heath School, Hampstead, N.W.

### To Stallholders.

Miss Willis, of the Suffrage Atelier, has kindly offered to help with advice regarding the decoration of the Albert Hall if stallholders and all who are helping to decorate will communicate with her at 1, Robert Street.

### FUTURE EVENTS IN LONDON.

Mon., Nov. 29th... Evening "At Home," Portman Rooms: Miss Margaret McMillan, 7-30; Mr. John Russell, M.A., 9-30. Chair, Mrs. Nevinson.  
Wed., Dec. 31st... "At Home," Portman Rooms, Baker Street: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Borrman Wells. Chair, Mrs. Fagan. Hostesses, Mrs. Railton, Mrs. Bexfield.  
Sat., Dec. 4th... Bethnal Green: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson.

### REPORTS FROM THE PROVINCES.

**Liverpool**—Headquarters: 25, Canning Street. Organisers: Miss Broadhurst, M.A. Miss Farquharson, M.A.  
**Manchester**—Organiser's Address: Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire. Hon. Organiser: Miss Manning, B.A.  
**South Yorkshire**—Organiser's Address: 12, Athol Road, Manningham, Bradford. Assistant Organiser: Miss L. Irene Tillard.  
**N.E. Yorkshire**—Headquarters: Northgate, Roman Road, Middlesbrough. Organiser: Miss Alice Schofield.  
**South Wales**—Temp. Headquarters: 22, Hamilton Street, Cardiff. Organisers: Miss M. Matters. Miss V. Tillard.

**Liverpool and North Wales.**—Arrangements have been made in Liverpool for an "At Home" in the Hope Street Church Hall on Friday, November 26th, and at the request of many of our members the plays acted at the Adelphi Hotel will be repeated.

In the beginning of the week, after much trouble, we succeeded in fixing a meeting for the 29th inst. in the Balfour Institute, Smithdown Road. Eagerness has also been shown by the people of Wrexham to hear the Suffragettes, and by the energy of Miss Evans we hope to have a meeting there during the Christmas holidays. On Wednesday morning we arrived in Bangor. By the kindness of Mrs. Hudson Williams a drawing-room meeting was held at Plastririon. Many influential people were present, and great sympathy was shown. This meeting was followed at 5.30 by an address to the women students at Wicklow House, and we feel confident that from this meeting will result a Suffrage Society of Bangor University Students. At 7.30 in the evening we held a very successful woman's meeting. Thursday was a day of visiting in Bangor, and on Friday we went to Carnarvon to work up enthusiasm for our big meeting in the Guild Hall, which promises to be a great success.

MARGARET MILNE FARQUHARSON.

**Work in Manchester.**—Manchester is making its preparations for a General Election. Meetings, Liberal, Conservative, Labour, Suffragist, and last, but not least, Suffragette, are the order of the day. But there is only one reform which can boast of five considerable meetings in one week, and that is the reform to which statesmen turn a deaf ear.

The following letter has been sent to Mr. Balfour:—

"To the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P.

"SIR,—The members of the Women's Freedom League in Manchester note with pleasure that the subject of Women's Suffrage is to come up for discussion at the forthcoming Conservative Conference. In view of the possibility of a General Election in the near future, an event which entails a fundamental change in the policy of the Women's Freedom League as hitherto pursued at bye-elections, viz., 'opposition to any Government in power so long as women remain unenfranchised,' I write on behalf of the Manchester (Central), South Manchester, and Swinton Branches to ask that you will receive a deputation of their representatives on the occasion of your visit to Manchester in order that they may lay their views before you and direct their actions at the General Election in accordance with the attitude which your party intends to adopt on this important subject. Awaiting your kind reply, I am, yours truly (for the Branches), MARY E. MANNING, Hon. Organiser."

In answer to this a communication marked "Private" has been received. Mr. Balfour's reply was prompt and courteous, but absolutely non-committal. The correspondence has not yet closed, and we hope to lay our views before him in a future letter.

The fact that a not inconsiderable audience attended Wednesday's "At Home" in spite of the Conservative mass meeting and two Liberal meetings on the same day augurs well for the future. Mrs. Nevinson's speech was greatly appreciated, and must have removed many doubts and misapprehensions. THE VOTE

selling is going forward well owing to the energy of the Misses Hordern, Miss Vernon, Miss Bowerbank, Miss Horsfall, Miss Smalley, Mrs. Pitt, Miss Moffatt, and others.

This week also the Swinton Branch was formally organised. With Miss J. Heyes as secretary, Miss Heyes treasurer, Miss Beckett literature secretary, and a devoted band of helpers, there is no doubt of much good work being done during the winter in Swinton.

Our next "At Home" will be held in the Memorial Hall, Albert Square, on December 1st, when all readers of THE VOTE will be welcome.

**N.E. Yorks and Durham.**—The chief event in a week of advertising has been a very successful meeting arranged by our new Sunderland Branch. On Wednesday night Mrs. Coates Hansen and I addressed a large audience of women in the St. Peter's Hall. The chairman, Mrs. Storey, made a brilliant opening, and struck a note to which the meeting quickly responded. This was the first of a series of meetings which the Branch intends to hold during the winter months. Miss Clark, the honorary secretary, and her willing band of workers have made an excellent start for the conversion of Sunderland.

Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Miss Manning, B.A., are billed to speak at the Town Hall, West Hartlepool, on Monday, at the Corporation Hotel, Middlesbrough, on Wednesday, and the Alexandra Hotel, Sunderland, on Thursday.

Donations towards the expenses of these meetings are urgently needed.

A. SCHOFIELD.

**South Wales.**—We have had an interesting week. Cardiff has been thoroughly stirred up, as the local Press indicates. Over a thousand men waited outside the Stock Exchange on Wednesday last for the meeting which had been announced for that afternoon. To Mr. Robert Sanderson, the well-known shipowner, we are grateful for his original method of advertisement and for paying the cost thereof. But this splendid opportunity was lost owing to the hooliganism of some individuals—few in number, but effective in methods—fireworks and shouts. Mr. D. A. Thomas, M.P., who appealed for a hearing, was treated to great discourtesy by his own sex. But a committee of men are going to arrange for a private meeting for the men of commerce in Cardiff, and the result of such a meeting should be good. In the Cory Hall on Wednesday night we had a delightful meeting, with Professor H. Stanley Jevons (Lecturer in Economics and Political Science at the Cardiff University) as chairman. Many of the business men who had been disappointed at the afternoon meeting were present, and hearty votes of thanks were passed to the chairman and speakers by members of the audience.

On Friday afternoon Mrs. H. C. Woolf took the chair at an interesting women's meeting at Penarth. The main result of our week's work will be the formation of the South Glamorgan Branch (with Cardiff as headquarters) in the near future. The Women's Freedom League is now a force socially and politically in this district. Next week we visit Carmarthen (for a meeting) and settle in Llanelly for a short campaign. All communications to be addressed to P.O., Llanelly. MURIEL MATTERS.

#### FUTURE EVENTS IN THE PROVINCES.

- Thurs., Nov. 25th **Alexandra Hotel, Sunderland**: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Manning, B.A., Miss Schofield, 7.30 p.m.  
**Carmarthen Road, Swansea**: Miss Phipps, B.A., 8 p.m.  
**Manchester Central Branch**: Speakers' Class, 7 p.m.; General Meeting (Address by President), 8 p.m.; Business Meeting, 9 p.m.
- Fri., Nov. 26th ... **"At Home," Hope Street Church Hall, Liverpool**: How the Vote was Won. Scene from "Pride and Prejudice."  
**Llanelly**: Miss Muriel Matters, 8 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 27th ... **Town Hall, Bromley, Entertainment and Social**: Mrs. Borrmann Wells and others, 7.30—10.  
**Brynaman**: Mrs. Phipps, B.A., Miss Muriel Matters; chair, Mrs. E. A. Cleaves, 8 p.m.
- Mon., Nov. 29th... **"At Home," Ethical Room, Charles Street, Sheffield**: 8 p.m.
- Tues., Nov. 30th... **Chester, Meeting**: Miss Broadhurst, M.A., Miss Farquharson, M.A. "How the Vote was Won," by Local Members.
- Wed., Dec. 1st. ... **Swansea Young Liberals' League**: Miss Real, 8 p.m.  
**Old Malt House, Ivy Lodge, Caldicot**: Miss Muriel Matters, Mrs. Mitchell (chair), 3 p.m.; Miss Muriel Matters, Miss V. Tillard (chair), 8 p.m.  
**Chester**: "How the Vote was Won," Dramatic Performance from Shakespeare, by Local Members.
- Thurs., Dec. 2nd **Gorsienan**: Miss Muriel Matters.  
**Manchester Central Branch**: Speakers' Class, 7 p.m.; General Meeting, 8 p.m.; Business Meeting, 9 p.m.
- Mon., Dec. 6th ... **Penarth**: "How the Vote was Won." Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters, 8 p.m.
- Tues., Dec. 7th ... **Central Hall, Bradford**: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Amy Sanderson, Rev. R. J. Campbell, Mrs. How-Martyn (chair), 8 p.m.

#### Church League for Women's Suffrage.

The inaugural meeting of the above society will be held in Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, on Thursday, December 2nd, at 8 p.m. The speakers are the Rev. Hugh Chapman (Chapel Royal of the Savoy), the Rev. Dr. Cobb, Mrs. Marion Holmes, Mrs. Mansell Moullin, Miss Maude Royden, and Kenneth Richmond, Esq. The chair will be taken by Cecil Chapman, Esq., J.P. Admission free. Tickets may be obtained from the Hon. Organiser, C.L.W.S., 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

#### SPECIAL NOTICES.

##### Street Sellers for "The Vote."

Sellers are urgently needed to push THE VOTE in the streets. Send in your names to Mrs. Snow, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

#### BRANCH NOTES.

**The Manchester Central Branch** held its meeting as usual on Thursday, the 18th inst., at Albert Square. The "Speakers' Class" was unfortunately not very successful. Owing to the break caused by the annual meeting the members had omitted to "get up" any speeches, and we were therefore greatly obliged to the District Organiser, Miss Manning, who filled the time with a short address on "The Aims and Tactics of the Women's Freedom League."

The subject selected for next week's class is "Will the Vote Cause Dissension in the Home?" and Miss Hordern has kindly consented to open the meeting. It is hoped that the members of the class will come fully prepared to speak on this question, so often used in the form of an objection to our movement.

At the general meeting the president gave a short address outlining the work which it is hoped will be executed during the winter session, and specially appealing to every member of the Branch to make it a point of honour to gain one new member during the session. The suggestion that the weekly Branch meetings should be used for propaganda work as well as business was received with acclamation, and it was decided to divide each meeting into three parts, as shown in the announcement column. At the business meeting the matter of Mr. Meredith Macdonald came up and aroused intense sympathy and indignation. It was proposed that a collection be taken at the following Branch meetings specially for the fund, and nearly every member present took a collecting card. After arranging for the week-end sale of THE VOTE the meeting closed.

M. J. NEAL, Pres. and Press Secretary.

**Swansea Branch.**—On Monday at Waun Wen Miss Neal delivered a most educating address on "The Economic Aspect" to a large and appreciative audience. Questions and discussion followed, and the earnestness of both supporters and opponents proved the serious interest now taken in Votes for Women by a rapidly-increasing number in this district. The applause that was given Miss Neal at the close of the meeting was most hearty.

We must now focus our attention on the Yuletide Festival. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Knight, Miss McLeod, Mrs. Seyler, Mrs. Cole Morgan, the Misses Salmon, Miss Phipps, Miss Neal, Miss Bevan, Mrs. and Miss Cleaves, and a 'Friend' for promises of goods for our stall, and we are hoping that other members and friends will hurry up and follow their good example.

M. McL. CLEEVES, Hon. Sec.

**West Sussex Branch.**—Northchapel is situated seven miles from the nearest railway station, but Votes for Women seed, in the shape of a speech from Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett, was sown there last Saturday. A male sympathiser had asked Mr. and Mrs. Bright to have a meeting at the Rectory. This request they had very willingly acceded to. Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett's witticisms called forth much amusement, while there is every reason to believe that the more serious part of her speech went home to the hearts of her hearers. Mr. Bright, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett, said that they had listened to the words of an "enthusiast and a prophet." The chair was taken by Mrs. de Fonblanque, and Miss Elsie Cummin made a short speech. THE VOTE sold well, and other literature was bought up by those eager to know more of the women's movement. During tea there were some animated discussions between Suffragists and some members of the audience who had listened for the first time to a Votes for Women speech.

**Midhurst.**—The members and friends of the West Sussex Branch were delighted to have a visit from Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett, in fact the inhabitants of Midhurst lose no opportunity of hearing that delightful and inspiring speaker, and on Monday, November 15th, when a meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms, Midhurst, the hall was filled with an audience as attentive as could be desired. Miss Cummin, the Secretary of the Branch, was in the chair, and after a short introductory speech Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett held the audience for nearly an hour. Miss Roff seconded the resolution proposed by the first speaker, and judging from the applause which greeted her remarks she succeeded in winning the appreciation of her hearers. The resolution was carried, a good collection was taken, and two new members added to the Branch. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett was proposed by Miss Campbell and seconded by Mrs. Bridger.