

The Common Cause.

The Organ of the Women's Movement for Reform.

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ONE PENNY.

The News of the Week.

Julia Ward Howe.

Full of years, full of hope and faith, having left the world a more beautiful and a better place than she found it, Julia Ward Howe has died, and we are glad that she lived.

Welsh Women and the Suffrage.

We published an announcement last week of the conference on Women's Suffrage to be held by Welsh Liberal Women at the Cory Hall, Cardiff, on Thursday, November 3rd. It is an admirable idea, and we hope that all Suffragists in Wales, whether party or non-party, will do their utmost to join the conference and help it to a right conclusion. As far as the chances of Suffrage from the Liberal Party are concerned, Wales may be regarded as the crux of the situation.

A correspondent writes that the following comprehensive resolution was passed by the Splott branch of the Cardiff Women's Liberal Association on Wednesday, October 12, 1910, Mrs. Alfred Thomas in the chair:—"This meeting enthusiastically urges the Government to give time for the Representation of the People Bill, 1910, to pass into law this year. They recognise that the Bill (1) gives women a voice in the laws that govern women; (2) is democratic, giving rich and poor women householders a vote equally; (3) removes the stigma imposed on womanhood and marriage; (4) does not give property a vote; (5) is the will of the people."

Mr. Asquith's Pledge.

We are glad to publish the letters of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Acland, but we must confess that they do not throw any light on the question which is still *the* question for us—How can Women's Suffrage be most speedily attained? It is our complaint that Mr. Asquith's "pledges" always relate to contingencies that do not arise. It was in the Second Reading debate that Mr. Snowden offered to "recommit the Bill in respect of its title," and it seems to us clear that if the Government had been sincere in desiring that the House should have "an opportunity of dealing effectively with the whole

question," they would have met that offer with an offer of time. The second reading was taken on July 12, and it is notorious that time could have been made either before the end of that session or at the beginning of the autumn session. In fact, still, nothing but the lack of goodwill on the part of the Government can prevent this time from being given. Mr. Acland shows his inability to view the question from any but the party politician point of view when he says "Governments do not usually allow longer time for short autumn sessions than they want for their own business." We think it is the business of the Government to repair the damage caused by its own hesitation and procrastination. Not to do so is to show a lamentable lack of statesmanship.

We think there is little doubt that if the Government accepted Mr. Snowden's offer, even at this late hour, Suffragists all over the country would be willing to abide the result.

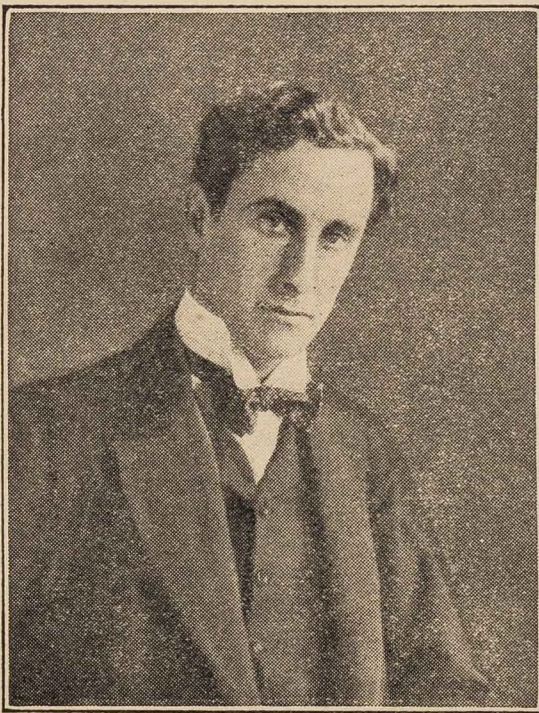


Photo., Ernest H. Mills.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF LYTTON,
Chairman, Conciliation Committee.

Is the Bill Shelved?

With regard to the point made by Mrs. Acland. It is perfectly true that, before the debate, we wrote and spoke to the effect that a vote for sending the Bill to a Committee of the whole House would be regarded as a hostile vote; but Mr. Haldane's speech and the recognition of the meaning of the Conservative vote changed our opinion. Lord Hugh Cecil, on July 29, protested against Mr. Asquith's interpretation of the vote, and stated that Mr. Balfour had not intended to shelve the Bill. Unionists are opposed on principle to the use of Grand Committees for Franchise Bills. As Mr. Brailsford says in his pamphlet: "Three of them

made the best speeches delivered on our side, a fourth is a member of the Conciliation Committee, and a fifth was speaking five days later from our platform in Hyde Park."

Mrs. Acland advises us to "organise the pressing forces." That is precisely what we are engaged in doing. If the pressure for this Bill is slight (in which we do not agree) it is curious that she cannot recognise that the pressure for the Bill she advocates is almost negligible. We have to remember, too, that Mr. Lloyd George distinctly stated in the course of the debate that "if the promoters of this Bill say that they regard the second reading merely as an affirmation of the principal of Woman

Suffrage" he would vote for it; and Mr. Churchill said the vote on the second reading meant "I want this Bill passed into law this session, regardless of all other consequences. I want it as it is, and I want it now." We have taken the interpretation that Members themselves have put on their votes; what gloss can Mrs. Acland find for the Home Secretary and the Chancellor?

"A Monstrous and Impudent Claim."

Mr. F. E. Smith, speaking at Abingdon, said (in reference to the Osborne judgment) that "the campaign of the Labour party in the country was in favour of forcing men who hated their political views to finance them in the House of Commons. If that claim was admitted, England would cease to be a free country. Why should those who considered their views distasteful and dangerous be compelled against their wishes to maintain them in the House of Commons? He . . . would die in the last political ditch before he would concede that monstrous and impudent claim."

Now Mr. Smith has declared for the payment of Members out of taxes. Also, Mr. Smith must know that the whole machinery of Parliament and Government is paid for out of taxes. Women pay these taxes like men. Is it not a "monstrous and impudent claim" that women should have to pay for Mr. F. E. Smith?

Councillor Mrs. Jane Redford.

We are glad to know that, after all, owing to the enforced absence from Manchester of the Liberal candidate who was to oppose Mrs. Redford in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, his candidature was withdrawn and Mrs. Redford was returned unopposed. Miss Ashton will now have a woman colleague on the City Council.

Anti-Suffrage in Manchester.

Mr. A. Maconachie has been debating again, this time with the Women's Union of the Manchester University. The vote showed only three Anti-Suffragists present, yet we read Mr. Maconachie in the "Anti-Suffrage Review" saying of a tour he made this summer that the vote was "invariably and strongly against the Suffrage." "I have learned so to take this for granted that I almost forgot to mention it." One wonders if he will "forget to mention" his fate in Manchester.

Proposed Liverpool Memorial to Florence Nightingale.

Two proposals for a memorial to Florence Nightingale came before a public meeting in Liverpool Town Hall one day last week. One was to add, at an estimated expenditure of £5,000, another district nursing home to the six already existing. The alternative was to establish a home for retired nurses, but this, to cost some £10,000, was considered too expensive, and the first scheme was adopted. One is sorry the money could not be found, for while so much has been done of late years for nursing, not nearly enough is done yet for nurses, who wear themselves out at their exacting and selfless toil.

Assaults on Women.

In the course of a letter dealing with a controversy into which we cannot go, Mr. Churchill, Home Secretary, makes the welcome statement that "brutal assaults on women are far too common in this district, and in my judgment call for severe punishment."

Portuguese Women and the Revoution.

The President of the new Portuguese Republic is said to be "a strong believer in the emancipation of women, but thinks that the gift of the Suffrage would be premature at present." It is to be hoped that the new régime may bring about better education for the women and fit them for responsibility.

Women Sanitary Inspectors.

In the course of an address to the North-Western Centre of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, Dr. Francis Vacher is reported to have said it was very pleasing that the women sanitary inspectors had been well

received in all the districts where such appointments had been made. The inspection of common lodging-houses used by women was only possible and satisfactory where there was a female sanitary inspector. Women inspectors were necessary also in districts where prompt notification of births was required, and they alone could give advice and instruction to young or ignorant mothers as to the care of their children. As time went on other duties would gradually be found for these most useful public officers.

The People's Suffrage Federation.

We are sorry to have to report that the secretary writes that the support given by the Federation to the Conciliation Bill when it was introduced was due to the exceptional political circumstances and limited to the second reading. The exceptional political circumstances having come to an end, the People's Suffrage Federation will officially neither support nor oppose the Bill, but will continue its agitation for a Government Bill based on Adult Suffrage.

Election Law Reform.

In the "Morning Post" of October 11th appeared a long letter from Mr. Ellis Powell on "Election Law Reform." It recommends a large number of drastic changes, and concludes: "It will be seen that the joining of civic duty to civic privilege for registration purposes, in the manner outlined above must, if carried to its logical conclusion, involve the admission of the rate and tax paying woman to the Parliamentary franchise. The scheme, however, is perfectly feasible in application to a male franchise only, though I have no desire whatever to conceal my own opinion that if a woman is fit to pay rates and taxes she is fit to vote."

Pains and Penalties.

Mr. Laurence Housman is giving a reading of his censored play, "Pains and Penalties," at the Bechstein Hall at 8 p.m., on Saturday, October 29th. Prices 10s. 6d., 5s., and 2s. 6d. Proceeds will go to the Men's League for Women's Suffrage. Suffragists will find the play of particular interest, and can get tickets at the hall, or from the Men's League, 40, Museum Street, W.C.

John Stuart Mill and the Suffrage.

A questioning spirit may be a scientific spirit, but one doubts whether there is anything but prejudice and misunderstanding in the speculations of a writer in the "Anti-Suffrage Review," who "questions whether" John Stuart Mill would have remained a Suffragist if he were living now. When the same author remarks that "with the widening education of women has come the recognition of their right to manage their own lives and to speak with authority on the education of their children" we rub our eyes, for that is what we say! Only this recognition of rights must pass from the theoretical to the practical before we can be satisfied. Second readings have "recognised" women's right to manage their own lives, but still Mr. Burns threatens, and Mr. George taxes, and Mr. Runciman educates, without our consent.

Huddersfield Town Council.

In Huddersfield the Women's Liberal Association is running Mrs. Julia R. Glaisyer for a ward which has for eighteen years been represented by a publican; this gentleman has been returned unopposed six times, so the lady would seem to be likely to have a hard fight. Councillor Beaumont is a good friend within the pale, and we hear that on the day of his nomination this year he delayed appearing to the last available moment in order to be present at the Suffrage debate in Leeds.

Last Week's Cartoon.

We regret that, by an oversight, acknowledgment was not made in last week's issue to the Record Press for the photograph of the Bishop of Lincoln, and to the "Manchester Guardian" for their kind permission to print from their block.

Beginners' Column.

The Common Cause.

What is the Common Cause? It is the cause of the enfranchisement of women. It is the cause of men as well as of women, because to give women political power is to give them power to help men to make the conditions under which we live better for us all. It is the cause of the children above all, because they need the care of women in the State just as they need the care of women—their mothers and nurses—in their own homes.

This paper records the work done by women and by men towards freeing the women of the nation. It is the organ of the great Union of over 200 non-party and non-militant Suffrage Societies known as the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, which works in every possible peaceful way to get the Parliamentary vote for all those women who have the qualification (householder, occupier, etc.) which would give them the vote if they happened to be men.

"Meddling" Women.

"Women should not meddle with politics," a Lancashire woman was once told. "I never meddled wi' politics till politics meddled wi' me," was her prompt reply. Do politics, then, interfere with the lives of women as well as with the lives of men? Politics, we are sometimes told, have to do with wars; and it is the men who have to fight. Yes, but don't hundreds of women go with them, succouring the wounded under fire, nursing them back to life, and fighting against that great foe, disease, which often destroys far more soldiers, in a great war, than fall in battle? And even the women who stop at home—doesn't the war matter to them? Just picture them, day after day scanning the newspapers to see if the name of husband, brother, or son is amongst the casualties; just think of them watching their children starve whilst the breadwinner is away; remember, too, that the millions of money spent on a great war they take their share in paying: that they are still paying to-day, in their taxes, for the South African war, and they are always paying for the training and maintenance of the Army.

When Women Vote.

"Women couldn't do anything with their votes if they had them," some people say. "What difference could it possibly make?" Well, a good way of judging is to see what women have done when they had got votes, and what difference it did make. For it is only the Parliamentary vote which the woman isn't supposed to be able to use. She votes for Guardians, and for Town and County Councillors. Has she ever found that it made a difference having a vote? A friend tells us of a certain town where new swimming baths were being erected, and it was decided that there should be a bath for men and one for women. So when the building was in progress some women municipal voters went to see how it was getting on. And they asked the builders, "Which is the women's bath?" "Oh!" they replied, "don't you know? There is not to be a women's bath. The Council decided that it would be more useful to have a first-class men's bath, and a second-class men's bath." What did the women do? They were voters, and therefore powerful. So they went to some of the Councillors and said, "What is this we hear about you having decided not to have a women's bath? What is the reason of it?" And the Councillors made various excuses; but the women were not satisfied, and they said, "Very well, do as you like, but we women voters will take good care that you don't get elected again." And they built the women's bath!

Visible Means.

The following story is from "Throne and Country":—*Magistrate*: "Have you any visible means of support?" *Prisoner*: "Yes, yer wushup." (To his wife, a landress): "Hemmar, stand up so's the court can see yer."

This Week's Motto.

The wearer of the shoe knows where it pinches.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.

LONDON AGENT.—Communications referring to advertisements may now be addressed to our London agent, Mrs. H. A. Evans, 10, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C. Friends in London desirous of helping to get advertisements will kindly communicate with her.

THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in England or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

3 MONTHS	...	1	9
6 MONTHS	...	3	3
12 MONTHS	...	6	6

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last possible day, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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Woman—Bond or Free?

*In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.*

JULIA WARD HOWE.

On page 446 will be found a description of the proceedings which took place at Lincoln with regard to the National Union of Women Workers and the question of the Suffrage.

It must be recognized that the National Union of Women Workers has a difficult question to settle in the near future, and we hope that everyone concerned will work for the solution of that question on lines which shall lead to a furtherance of the best interests of women and girls, for which the Union exists. The opening declaration of its constitution states that it is organized "in the interests of no one policy." This declaration strikes us as a little vague, and in practice it appears not to have been acted upon. There is a "legislation sectional committee" and the N.U.W.W. has supported many definite pieces of legislation about which opinion is not unanimous. At every Council meeting three resolutions are brought forward, often making representations to Government, and one of these, which was re-affirmed last year at Southsea, stated that "without the firm foundation of the Parliamentary franchise for women, there is no permanence for any advance gained by them."

It would seem, then, that the N.U.W.W. has passed and confirmed, in Council assembled, resolutions in the interests of the policy of the enfranchisement rather than the continued subjection of women, and unless it is held

desirable to rescind these resolutions, it would seem that it is the plain duty of the Executive to act upon them. The N.U.W.W. exists to further the interests of women and girls and necessarily to endeavour to make permanent any advance gained by them. Further, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has one object and one object only—"to obtain the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men,"—and it is affiliated to the Women Workers. Now plainly, if the subject of Women's Suffrage is not to be discussed, if Suffrage literature is not to be on the same footing as that of other affiliated societies, and if Suffrage resolutions are allowed to become a dead letter, the object of having Suffrage Societies affiliated ceases altogether and their representation becomes a mockery.

The questions that the Special Council which has been requisitioned will have to deal with, then, concern the relations between the Union as a whole and its various affiliated societies: how much responsibility the Union should take for the objects of its affiliated societies and what general principles should regulate its conduct with regard to public advocacy of such objects. It is possible, of course, to have a Union which only exists as the machinery for conferences, and for the dissemination of information, and which never takes corporate action, or only takes corporate action upon a unanimous vote; but hitherto the Women Workers' has not been such a Union. If, on the other hand, it is to be left to the Executive to decide whether or no to take action upon resolutions passed in Council, that again is an alternative which should receive consideration; but we greatly doubt whether many societies would care to be affiliated under such conditions.

The powers and duties of the Executive are, as will be seen, at present somewhat indeterminate, and this lays upon them in time of stress and difficulty a responsibility which, as it seems to us, ought to be shared by the whole body. It is the whole body of Women Workers, through their elected representatives, who ought to speak out at this crisis in the affairs of women and to instruct their Executive as to the wish of the majority. The majority of the Women Workers are Suffragists; no one denies that. Out of a most generous regard for the minority, and with a laudable desire not to precipitate dissension, there are some who think that when a question becomes a burning question, the Union should step aside and take no line, and this question of Women's Suffrage is "burning" enough.

We wish to state what, in our view, are the broad and patriotic considerations upon which the decision should be made. First, it is notoriously difficult to get at the opinion of the majority of women on any great subject. Where, therefore, machinery exists for getting at the majority of women banded together for any purpose, this is a precious opportunity not to be missed. The "Women Workers among women and girls" have a peculiar claim to speak, in virtue of their experience and knowledge, and that claim brings with it the deep and pressing duty to speak out of the fulness of that knowledge and experience. It is all very well to say, "The Suffrage Societies exist for this purpose. We have other things to do. Let the Suffrage Societies speak for Suffrage." It must be remembered that the Suffrage Societies put Suffrage first and act independently of all parties. Is it really desired that the need for enfranchisement should be expressed by such alone? Is it not incumbent upon all bodies of women banded together for good work to express their belief in freedom and their distrust of subjection? A leaflet was recently circulated in Trafalgar Square wherein it was stated that "the Suffragist propaganda is mainly based on an appeal to the vanity of uneducated and impressionable girls"; that these "silly girls" are "misled by designing elder women"; that Suffragists are teaching them "to despise home duties and to shun domestic service"; that they are "deliberately and of set intention bringing about sex antagonism," and much more of the same poisonous and silly stuff. Can anyone deny that if great bodies of home and duty-loving women like the National Union of Women Workers, the British Women's Temperance Association, and the Women's Co-operative Guild frankly and fearlessly state that, as corporate

bodies, and because of their interest in temperance, the home, and morality, they believe their objects will be furthered by the enfranchisement of women, this cause would receive great help and the false statement that a few professional agitators alone desire it would receive its death-blow?

By all the good work they have done, by their record for moderation and sanity, by the roll of names of women eager in single-hearted service of humanity, their intervention would have an influence other than that of Suffrage Societies. Is it really desired to drive out into blank opposition all women who wish for enfranchisement? Must all women really drop all else and work only for the Suffrage before they can get it? Are not the Women Workers the very women who can best answer the objections that women must not vote because they are ignorant; that votes for women mean the subjection of men; that women don't want the vote?

And lastly, are the Women Workers not concerned to combat the barbarous and iniquitous theory that physical force, undirected by spiritual force, rules and must rule the world? Whether they like it or not (and we have more than once heard members pride themselves on the title) they have been called the Women's Parliament. Power and numbers bring responsibility. This is not a party question; it is the fundamental human question of Woman, bond or free? They cannot evade it. The choice must be made. And if no clear lead is given by the National Union of Women Workers in this matter, it will be concluded that in the opinion of that Union the "interests of women and girls" can be as well served in subjection as in liberty.

Truth and Justice.

"The Life of Mrs. Norton," by Miss Jane Gray Perkins. (John Murray. Pp. 312. 12s. net.)

To us the overwhelming interest in the life of Caroline Norton is not that she wrote novels and poems, nor that she was a daughter of Sheridan and a brilliant woman of society, nor even that she was, in part at least, the inspiration of a novel by George Meredith. The interest of "Diana of the Crossways" does not lie in its being a literal attempt to reconstruct Caroline Norton, as a paleontologist will reconstruct you the Plesiosaurus from a jaw-bone, but in its being a vital creation with a life breathed into it by the artist; and the interest of this biography is quite remote from the romance of Diana and Dacier. The interest to us is to trace the effect of Norton's outrageous abuse of his legal marital rights upon legislation, and to marvel and admire at the nobleness of soul which made the injured woman turn her private sorrow into a shield for the women who were to come after her.

Her three pamphlets remain on record as the most eloquent statement of the hideous slavery of a wife who was also a mother; one, circulated privately in 1836, was entitled "The Natural Claim of a Mother to the Custody of her Children as affected by the Common Law Right of the Father"; another, written in 1854, was called "English Laws for Women of the Nineteenth Century"; and the third was the noble "Letter to the Queen on Lord Cranworth's Marriage and Divorce Bill," published in 1855 by Longman, Brown, Green and Longman. The Custody of Infants Bill was passed into law in 1839, not without many forebodings on the part of noble Lords and others as to the astounding change which was to come over virtuous and affectionate wives and mothers as soon as you loosened even a little the galling ties which bound them. "You cannot get Peers," writes Mrs. Norton, "to sit up till three in the morning listening to the wrongs of separated wives. They are disturbed at the preposterous importance set by women on the society of their infant children, and doubtful as to the effect of such a claim on the authority of heads of families." Lord Holland writes indignantly, about the same time, of the tenour of Lord Brougham's speech, which was that "several legal hardships being of necessity inflicted on women, therefore we should not relieve them from those which are not necessary, although repugnant to the feelings of our nature and indeed to nature itself."

On the chivalry of men to right the wrongs of women she was forced to have few delusions, and on the failure of the House of Lords to grapple with the acknowledged tyranny of women, "acknowledged again I say, not by wailing, angry, despairing women, but by Chancellors, ex-Chancellors, legal reformers, and members of both Houses of Parliament," she has the following caustic comment:

"It drops, and is given up; the Chancellor, like the Runic sorceress, exclaims:—

'Leave me, leave me to repose,'

and all go away home, like a party of miners who have given up the attempt to dig out persons buried in the superincumbent earth. They would be very glad to do something towards amending the laws for women, but really 'the subject is so surrounded with difficulty.'"

What living Suffragist does not recognize all these types, these excuses and these delusions among those who have the power to-day and who do not use it to right the wrong?

Nothing could be more noble than the passionate eloquence with which she pleads the cause of women:

"I write in the hope that the law may be amended; and that those who are at present so ill-provided as to have only 'Truth and Justice' on their side, may hereafter have the benefit of 'Law and Lawyers.'"

"I know all that can be said on my interference with such a subject—all the prejudices and contempt with which men will receive arguments from a woman, and a woman personally interested. But it is of more importance that the law should be altered than that I should be approved. Many a woman may live to thank heaven that I had courage and energy left to attempt the task; and since no one can foretell the future, even men may pause ere they fling down my pamphlet with masculine scorn; for the day may come, however improbable, to some one of my readers, when he would give his right hand for the sake of sister, daughter, or friend, that the law were in such a condition as to afford a chance of justice, without the pain of a protracted struggle, or the disgrace of a public brawl."

Hark to the throbbing passion which informs her appeal:—

"I really wept and suffered in my early youth for wrong done, not by me, but to me, and the ghost of whose scandal is raised against me this day. I really suffered the extremity of earthly shame without deserving it (whatever chastisement my other faults may have deserved from heaven). I really lost my young children, craved for them, struggled for them, was barred from them, and came too late to see one who had died a painful and convulsive death, except in his coffin. I really have gone through much that, if it were invented, would move you, but being of your everyday world, you are willing it should sweep past like a heap of dead leaves on the stream of time, and take its place with other things that have gone drifting down.

'Ou va la feuille de rose
Et la feuille du laurier.'

"Will none of you aid the cause I advocate, and forget that it was advocated by me? Think what it must be to spend all one's youth, as I have spent mine, in a series of vain struggles to obtain any legal justice. Or do not think at all about me; forget by whose story this appeal was illustrated. I can bring you others, from your own English law books; and let my part in this be only as a voice borne by the wind, as a cry coming over the waves from a shipwreck, to where you stand safe on the shore, and which you turn and listen to, not for the sake of those who call—you do not know them,—but because it is a cry for help."

And this magnificent dedication of herself in her letter to the Queen:—

"He (Norton) has made me dream that it was meant for a higher and stronger purpose, that gift which came not from man, but from God! It was meant to enable me to rouse the hearts of others to examine into all the gross injustice of these laws, to ask the nation of gallant gentlemen whose countrywoman I am, for once to hear a woman's pleading on the subject. Not because I deserve more at their hands than other women. Well I know, on the contrary, how many hundreds, infinitely better than I—more pious, more patient, and less rash under injury,—have watered their bread with tears! My plea to attention is, that in pleading for myself I am able to plead for all these others. Not that my sufferings or my deserts are greater than theirs, but that I combine with the fact of having suffered wrong, the power to comment on and explain the cause of that wrong, which few women are able to do.

"For this I believe God gave me the power of writing. To this I devote that power. I abjure all other writing till I see these laws altered. I care not what ridicule or abuse may be result of that declaration. They who cannot bear

ridicule and abuse are unfit and unable to advance any cause; and once more I deny that this is my personal cause—it is the cause of all the women of England. If I could be justified and happy to-morrow, I would still strive and labour in it; and if I were to die to-morrow, it would still be a satisfaction to me that I had so striven. Meanwhile my husband has a legal lien on the copyright of my works. Let him claim the copyright of this!"

The Work of Press Secretaries.

The editor has asked me to write about the resolution moved by the North-Western Federation at the Provincial Council last week. This was the resolution:—"That it be part of the duty of each Federation to keep in touch with all the local newspapers in its area."

By "keeping in touch" is meant the appointment of responsible persons (a) to make the acquaintance of the editors and read the papers every week; (b) to watch the correspondence columns and get suitable people to write letters for them when occasion offers; (c) to note and report any mention of Women's Suffrage in the editorial columns, or in speeches of members and candidates and other prominent local persons (the omission of Women's Suffrage from any important speech of a professedly favourable candidate should also be noted!); (d) to read carefully all reports of Suffrage and anti-Suffrage activities, either local or general, and any matter communicated by the Federation or by the local society, and report at once any inaccuracies or misrepresentations.

These suggestions make no claim to originality; probably all of them have been put into practice to a greater or less extent by our Societies in different parts of the country. The object of bringing them before the Provincial Council was twofold: Firstly, to get the Federations to undertake responsibility for the work and carry it out thoroughly and systematically; and secondly, to emphasize the fact that the establishment of good relations with the Press is not only desirable, but possible, and enormously important. So often a piece of really good work fails to have its full effect for want of the little extra trouble—or organisation—necessary to put it right through. This is true not only of individual societies, but also, if I may venture to say so, of the National Union as a whole. This is exactly where the Federations ought to step in, and when they are all in working order we ought to be able to ensure that no gaps are left, that all the work being done throughout the country shall be synthesised, and recorded in some permanent form easily accessible for reference. This Press work can be organised more efficiently and more economically on the basis of the Federation than when each Society is doing its own little bit in ignorance of what other societies are doing. In every Federation there should be one person responsible for this part of the work, and that person should, when possible, be the secretary, I think, as she will be more closely in touch with current events in the National Union than anyone else. I am not proposing that she should do the work herself. It will be best to apportion that out among different people, and when letters have to be written to the papers it is not wise for the same person to write too often. But it is important, I think, that one person shall be ultimately responsible for the working of the system throughout the whole of the Federation area. She should see that every local paper is put under the eye of a local Press Secretary (one person can probably undertake two or three papers), appointed by herself in consultation with the local Society. It is very important to appoint people who have tact and discretion and can be relied upon to be regular and conscientious in reading the papers under their charge.

But all this means a great deal of work. Is it worth while? Will the results justify the expenditure of so much time and labour?

It does mean a great deal of work. I do not deny that for a moment. I have been doing it myself, though with nothing like thoroughness, in connection with twenty local papers, and it has made very great demands on my time. But the results have more than repaid the cost. Of these twenty papers not one is now hostile; not one ever misrepresents us (that alone is an immense gain);

most of them give excellent—almost verbatim—reports of all our meetings, and several support us actively in their editorial columns, and reprint Women's Suffrage articles of their own accord from the "Manchester Guardian" and other sources. Some of the editors needed educating, but one of our chief tasks is to educate public opinion, and the local papers have an important influence on public opinion in country districts. Educate their editors, and you are educating public opinion at its fountain-head. The difference which a favourable local Press makes to the success of our propaganda work is simply incalculable. The effect of every meeting is increased a hundredfold, because for every person who was present and heard the speeches at least one hundred read the reports of them. Several of the editors of papers in distant parts of the country have got into the way now of sending me copies of their paper whenever they think it contains something that will interest me. This morning I have received a copy of the "Kendal Mercury and Times," with an admirable report of a speech by Lady Betty Balfour at a meeting last Monday, organised by the Kendal Society. I am ordering two dozen copies of it, as a token of appreciation, to distribute among the members of our Keswick Committee. . . . I have written at some length about our own experiences, because I find people are often sceptical as to the possibility of winning over the Press, and a few results are more encouraging than any number of prophecies. Our experience has been entirely in country districts. I recognise, of course, that in big towns the problem is a far more difficult one. But even there I believe a great deal can be done by organised and patient effort. Our chief foes are ignorance and prejudice, and they lurk behind the editor's desk as well as in other places. It is largely a matter of taking trouble—taking enough trouble.

A few hints, in conclusion, to those who have not tried this kind of work before:—

1. Make a table of the names of the newspapers, the addresses of their offices, their editors' names, their day of issue, price, area in which they circulate, politics, and attitude on Women's Suffrage.
2. Make the editors' acquaintance personally as soon as possible.
3. When you want them to publish notices for you (e.g., biographical notes of speakers who are coming to the neighbourhood) write a different notice for each paper, bearing in mind their respective politics and general style.
4. Send in notices, letters, etc., in good time, not at the last moment.
5. However pressed for time you may be, never economise in politeness.
6. If at first you don't succeed, don't stop trying till you do.

C. E. MARSHALL.

The National Union of Women Workers and the Suffrage Societies.

We think it necessary to give the plain unvarnished tale of the proceedings at Lincoln with regard to the Suffrage question, because the "tuppence coloured" of the daily Press, though possibly more amusing, was, as a matter of dry fact, grossly misleading. A Lincoln paper flooded the town with the poster, "Suffragette Scene," and had a headline stating "suffragette scene averted." Now mark how plain a tale shall put them down. There was no "scene" at all. This is what happened.

The National Union of Women Workers consists of: (1) Individual members; (2) branches in different towns; (3) affiliated societies. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is one of the societies affiliated to the Women Workers; the Women's Anti-Suffrage League is not. When, therefore, the Suffrage Societies found themselves for the first time refused a place on the book-stall at the Women Workers' Conference they naturally wished to know the reasons for such exclusion, and Miss Margaret Ashton, as a delegate to the Council, asked for the reasons. It appeared from the statement read by

the President, Lady Laura Ridding, that (in the unavoidable absence of the Organizing Secretary, Miss Jones) she had decided to refuse admission to Suffrage literature on the ground that "we ought to be careful this time not to seem to give facilities to one side or the other to spread their literature." She reminded her hearers that "this Union is organized in the interests of no one policy," and urged that "our religion and politics should be placed beyond the scope of our collective energies." This course was asked for by the minority, and she feared the introduction of discord if it were not maintained. The Executive had received a request from Mrs. Humphry Ward to introduce an urgency resolution with regard to the action to be pursued in the matter of Suffrage Demonstrations, and the Executive had decided not to grant urgency, but would consider the question at its next sitting. In view of this, she had thought it better to exclude Suffrage literature.

Miss Ashton expressed herself as dissatisfied with the explanation, and asked why an affiliated society should be refused representation on the bookstall at the request of a non-affiliated society. Mrs. Allan Bright stated that the whole thing had been a mistake and would not occur again, and practically asked the Council to pass it over as a slip, which had occurred only through the regrettable absence of Miss Jones. But unfortunately this had not been the line taken by Lady Laura, who had in her statement justified the proceeding, and Miss Ashton therefore insisted that the Council should have some clear statement of policy. Again, most unfortunately, the proceedings were thrown on to personal lines by the proposal of a vote of confidence in Lady Laura Ridding. The great mass of the delegates were entirely opposed to anything that could be interpreted as a vote of censure on their honoured President, and the vote was passed with only sixteen dissentients; these stood up against the motion, with the single intention of recording disagreement with Lady Laura's statement, and she, with great and admirable courtesy and humour, saved the situation by saying she herself "might have been one of the sixteen."

That the feeling of the meeting was in accord with Miss Ashton's purpose was shown by the hearty approval which greeted a later announcement that, a special Executive Committee having met, it had been unanimously resolved "That in view of the fact that the National Union of Women's Suffrage is an affiliated society to the National Union of Women Workers, and that the Anti-Suffrage Society is not, they accept the literature of the former Society for sale in the book-room," and laughter and applause greeted the further statement that if the Anti-Suffrage League were affiliated their literature also would be accepted.

So ended the "incident" described so luridly in the Press. But there was a very general feeling that the exigencies of the situation required not only the careful consideration by the Executive but also an opportunity for full and free discussion by the Council, and therefore a requisition was drawn up and will be entertained by the Executive at a suitable date, calling for a Special Council meeting to consider:

- (1) The relations between the National Union of Women Workers and its affiliated societies.
- (2) The policy to be pursued in regard to taking part in deputations and demonstrations in support of objects upon which the Council has not been unanimous.

It will be noted that, though the Press and others alluded to this requisition as being a "Suffrage" one, it was drawn up in general terms in order that resolutions defining the whole position of the Union with regard to its affiliated societies and their policy might be in order and receive due consideration.

"The Common Cause."

As soon as the Executive had withdrawn the ban upon us, we wired for copies of "The Common Cause" which, speedily arriving, sold "like hot cakes."

(A brief report of the Conference will be found on Page 450.)

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

METHODS: (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss EDITH DIMOCK, Miss BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary).
President: Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
Hon. Treasurer: Miss BERTHA MASON (Pro Tem.).
Secretary: Miss T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A.
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." **Offices:** Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telephone: 1900 Victoria.

Executive Committee.

With regard to the two by-elections in progress, it is not yet at all certain that any of the candidates will come up to the Council's requirements of those who are to be supported by the N.U. We have been giving the matter our serious consideration during the week, and have decided that neither contest is suitable for running a candidate of our own.

Walthamstow.—Sir John Simon (Liberal) voted for the Conciliation Bill in the first division, but afterwards voted for it to be referred to a Committee of the whole House. He has not, so far, replied to our inquiries at Walthamstow. He will be questioned in public as to his present position. If he would really help us he would be worth supporting, because his position in the Cabinet will give him unique opportunities.

Mr. L. Stanley Johnson (Conservative) told us at the general election that he was in favour of a limited Bill, and he has told us now, in answer to our question, that he would vote for the Conciliation Bill; but he does not promise any other support to it, and will not undertake to mention Women's Suffrage in his speeches. Mrs. Mayer, our organiser, will be in charge at Walthamstow, and our London workers are begged to go down and give all the help they can. We want this election at least to result in a Walthamstow N.U. Society.

South Shields.—The North-Eastern Federation is in charge of this election, has opened a committee-room, and is hard at work there. They have not yet, however, sent us sufficient information about the candidates' present position with regard to Women's Suffrage to enable a decision to be made.

Suffrage Week.

Arrangements for Suffrage Week are going on apace. On Wednesday we held the first meeting of the joint committee of representatives from the different Societies, and settled all the main points. The list of meetings has been altered and augmented a good deal since last week, and will probably be altered still further, but at present they are as follows:—

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7th.—Evening meeting, Women's Freedom League, and possibly Artists' Suffrage League.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th.—Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, at St. James' Theatre, at 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9th.—National Union and London Society (afternoon).

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10th (afternoon).—The younger Suffragists will organise a meeting to see and hear Miss Mason's lantern lecture.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11th (afternoon).—The Church League and the Forward Suffrage Union are organising a reception, and Miss Roper has changed the date of the meeting of the National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society from Wednesday evening to Friday evening. The New Constitutional Society is joining with them in this meeting.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th.—Afternoon, Men's League demonstration in Trafalgar Square; evening, joint mass meeting in the Albert Hall, at 7.30 p.m.

Notices of Suffrage Week are already posted all over London.

We hear that some of the Societies are sending the accounts of the meetings they have held to Mr. Brailsford direct. If the Societies remember, Mr. Brailsford specially asked that they should all be sent to the N.U.

office—not to him. It will greatly facilitate the labour of giving him a complete and concise list of meetings (which is what he has asked for) if each Society will itself keep a list of all its meetings, starting those at which a resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill has been passed and forwarded to the Prime Minister and to the local member of Parliament, sending in this list to the National Union Office without fail on November 5th.

Those who are carrying out a municipal women electors' petition can give Mr. Brailsford some further assistance. He would very much like to have statistics regarding three different kinds of districts—namely, industrial, residential, and rural. The statistics he would like to have are:—

1. What proportion of the electors are householders, and what proportion joint householders?
2. What proportion are £10 occupiers?
3. What proportion widows and spinsters?
4. The social status of the electors. (a) Proportion of women employed in house without a servant. (b) Proportion who are wage-earners. (c) Proportion who are professional and business women. (d) Proportion not employed outside home who keep a servant or servants.

Mr. Brailsford is also anxious that wherever there are friendly Cabinet Ministers, deputations should, if possible, be arranged to interview them; and that all the Societies should keep the members of Parliament in their constituencies fully alive to all that is going on, sending them the resolutions passed at their meetings, and so on. He thinks, also, that more Town Councils could be got to pass resolutions in favour of the Conciliation Bill if local efforts were made to bring the matter before them.

I would remind all the societies that Mr. Brailsford's new pamphlet, "The Conciliation Bill: An Explanation and Defence," is now on sale at the National Union Office. Price one penny each, with the usual discount of threepence in the shilling. All speakers and workers will find it most useful. EDITH DIMOCK.

October 16, 1910.

Mr. Brailsford's Pamphlet.

We reviewed this last week, and we earnestly recommend all secretaries to lay in stocks of it. The title is "The 'Conciliation' Bill: An Explanation and Defence." It can be procured from The Garden City Press, Limited, Letchworth, Herts. Prices: For 2,000 copies, with full-page advertisement, £5 10s.; for 1,000 copies, with half-page advertisement, £2 17s. 6d.; for 500 copies, with quarter-page advertisement, £1 10s.; 9d. per dozen (13 to the dozen); carriage paid on all lots over 10 dozen.

"Common Cause" Shares.

Applications for shares in "The Common Cause" Publishing Co. are coming in well, but we remind our readers that it is hoped to raise £1,000 before the middle of November. Shares are £1 each, and the sum may be paid either at once or in instalments of 5s. per share, payable at intervals as determined by the directors. No liability is incurred beyond the full amount of the shares applied for.

Mrs. Uniacke offers to take £5 worth of shares if 99 other persons will do so by November 10th. Another lady writes to say she is selling out £20 worth of stock in a remunerative investment in order to take twenty shares in this. Applications for shares should be made to the Secretary, "The Common Cause" Publishing Co., 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

By-Elections.**SOUTH SHIELDS.**

Candidates: Mr. Russell Rea (L.), Mr. Vaughan Williams (U.), and possibly a Labour Candidate.
Committee Rooms: 57½, King Street.
Organizer: Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A.

We have had a busy week at South Shields, and, as the local papers remarked, inaugurated the by-election campaign by holding the first meeting and opening the first committee room. Neither of the candidates is satisfactory from our point of view. The Liberal is an Adultist, the Conservative an Anti-Suffragist. As neither will support the Conciliation Bill, nor mention Suffrage in his election address, our work will be confined to propaganda only. We are holding open-air meetings in High Shields, South Shields, and Tyne Dock, at all of which we put—and pass—the resolution "that this meeting declares its support of the Women Suffrage Bill, which has passed its second reading by 110 votes—a majority larger than that accorded to the Government Veto resolutions. The meeting further calls upon the Government to bow to the will of the people as expressed by their elected representatives in the House of Commons, and to provide the facilities necessary to enable the Bill to pass into law before the end of this year."

This resolution, and a list of the meetings at which it is passed, will be sent to each candidate at the end of the week, and again to the successful member at the close of the election as a direct mandate from his constituents.

C. M. GORDON.

WALTHAMSTOW.

Candidates: Sir J. A. Simon (L.), Mr. J. S. Johnson (C.).
Committee Rooms: 384, Hoe Street, Walthamstow.
Organizer: Mrs. Mayer.

Voting in Australia.

Sir George Reid has forwarded to Mrs. Fawcett, as president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, at the request of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, a complete set of the electoral rolls in use in connection with the last Commonwealth elections. This courteous attention will be greatly appreciated by all the societies in the Union. It will be remembered that early in last December both Chambers of the Commonwealth Parliament put on record, without a dissentient voice, their complete satisfaction with the results of Women's Suffrage after an experience of it, in some of the States, of seventeen years.

Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association.

The following letter is being sent to all the members of the Cabinet:—
125, Leinster Road, Rathmines, Dublin.
October 15th, 1910.

Dear Sir,—On behalf of the above Association, may I invite your serious consideration to the following resolutions passed by the Corporation of Dublin and our Association respectively—viz.:

Moved by Alderman McWalter, Locum Tenens for the Lord Mayor, seconded by Councillor Nannetti, M.P., and carried unanimously:—

"That the Corporation of Dublin approves of the Conciliation Bill introduced to give the Parliamentary franchise to women such as already have the municipal franchise, and which has already passed the House of Commons by a majority of 110; and they request the Government to give immediate facilities for its passage into law."

Moved by Lady Dockrell, U.D.C., seconded by Mrs. Oldham, and carried unanimously:—

"That the committee of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association desire to express their hearty approval of the Conciliation Bill, and trust that the Cabinet will grant facilities for its passage into law during the autumn session of the present year."

I have the honour to be your faithful and obedient servant,
ANNIE M. HASLAM, Hon. Sec.

Federation Notes.**Scottish.**

The Federation has been active in work, zealously aided by the societies, since the beginning of October. The continuance of the autumn campaign has included several meetings addressed by Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Frances Balfour, Dr. Elsie Inglis, and Miss Lamond. Lady Frances Balfour and Miss Bertha Mason have meetings in prospect, and Miss Lumsden, of Aberdeen, has promised a week of meetings at the beginning of November. Meantime we are working up both Glasgow and Edinburgh for two great meetings at the end of November, Glasgow to be addressed by Mrs. Fawcett and Lord Lytton, Edinburgh by Miss Abadam and Lord Lytton. Miss Abadam is also speaking at meetings for a fortnight beforehand.

Another piece of work has been the circularising of Town and Burgh Councils in Scotland, suggesting a petition to their

members in favour of the Conciliation Bill. Already we are receiving very satisfactory replies. The following fifteen have resolved—some unanimously—to petition:—Glasgow, Fraserburgh, Tranent, Hawick, Dundee, North Berwick, Perth, Thurso, Kilwinning, Arbroath, Hamilton, Cumnock, Inverurie, Broughty Ferry, and Brechin. Among the seven refusals to hand that from Edinburgh is very disappointing.

Arrangements for the heckling of members, at their meetings, on the subject of the Conciliation Bill, are being carried out.

FLORENCE HILLIARD.

GLASGOW CAMPAIGN.

Since October 3rd we have been busy in Glasgow organising a special campaign, which will terminate in a big meeting in the St. Andrew's Halls on November 23rd, to be addressed by Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Abadam, and Lord Lytton.

I started open-air work on Wednesday at the corner of Wellington Street and Sauchiehall Street, and found a Glasgow audience quite enthusiastic. The resolution was carried unanimously, with cries of "No" to my question as to an amendment, and several men said, "We're all Suffragists here." We drove off amidst cheers and waving, and Wellington Street is to be one of our regular stands. We hope to have at least two evening open-air meetings every week—as well as some dozen or more factory-gate meetings—before the middle of November.

Mrs. Croll gave a large drawing-room meeting on Wednesday afternoon, at which I met representatives from the various branches of the Glasgow Co-operative Guilds. As a result I have been asked to address six Guilds, and the most generous help has been promised in the way of announcing our meetings, selling tickets, etc. Seven drawing-room meetings in Glasgow and Greenock are being arranged, and I hope to have many more than that before Miss Abadam's meetings begin on November 16th.

Glasgow is an enormous field for work. But with such generous help as the members of the committee and the Glasgow Society are giving, we should have a splendid series of meetings in November. I do not mean by that that we have nearly enough help. Funds and workers are urgently needed, and will be received with joy by either Mrs. Hunter (secretary) or myself at 58, Renfield Street, Glasgow.

ELIZABETH LAMOND.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales.

This Federation has a good deal of organising work on hand just now. Miss Waring spent October 3rd to 8th in Preston, and is to return thither for the week preceding November 11th. Meanwhile she hopes

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to take the first steps towards starting a society in the Newton Division. Mrs. Cooper and Miss Leadley Brown are spending this week in East Denbighshire, working in Denbigh, Ruthin, and other centres. Miss Eskridge this week is visiting the coast societies of North Wales, beginning with a meeting at Colwyn Bay. Work in Wales is much hampered by the want of a Welsh-speaking organiser, and any reader who knows of a suitable candidate (who must be a good platform speaker as well as a good constitutional Suffragist) should communicate with the hon. secretary of the Federation. Miss Thomson has been working for the past fortnight in Bootle, where we hope soon to start a society. The newest societies organised by the Federation—Widnes, Seaforth, and Ormskirk—still need strengthening, and are anxious to hear of new workers and members.

E. F. RATHBONE.

FORMATION OF A SOCIETY AT PRESTON.

A small group of Preston ladies are agitating to form a branch of the National Union in Preston, with the help of the Liverpool Society; and, to that end, the Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Allan Bright have promised to address a meeting in the Public Hall on November 11th. This hall seats five thousand people, and for the herculean task of filling it Miss Waring, the secretary of the Warrington Society, has been organising the workers during the week ending October 8th. A committee-room in the main thoroughfare was taken for the week, to display the usual cartoons and literature, and the leaflets gummed to the window have been read by a continuous stream of passers-by. Miss Waring also addressed several meetings outside mills, at which she encountered no opposition at all, and she has undertaken to address the local Wesleyan Brotherhood and Sisterhood, on "Chivalry" and "Women in India" on November 6th and 7th respectively. Besides all this, she has given hints on advertising and procedure, which are invaluable to the small band of workers. This is composed of Liberal and Conservative women, who have asked all the local party organisations to help them in advertising their meeting, in acting as stewards, and in supporting the speakers on the platform. To this appeal for help and fair play the Labour organisation has given a generous response, but the Liberals and Conservatives have as yet given no decisive answer. We must wait and see. Meanwhile we are finding out which of our so-called supporters are willing to give us any support, and we are forming our conclusions accordingly.

BEATRICE TODD.

Surrey, Sussex, and Hants.

Four important meetings in support of the Conciliation Bill are to be held in this Federation within seven days.

ON OCTOBER 27TH THE SUSSEX SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES HOLD A MASS MEETING IN THE DOME, BRIGHTON. Lord Lytton is to speak on the Bill, for which he holds so great a responsibility. Mr. Percy Alden, M.P., and Miss Margery Corbett will also speak. At WINCHESTER, ON OCTOBER 28TH, A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD. Lady Selbourne will take the chair, and Mrs. Fawcett will explain the Bill. Next day, OCTOBER 29TH, THE SURREY SOCIETIES HAVE ARRANGED TO HOLD A DEMONSTRATION FOR ALL SOCIETIES AND INDIVIDUALS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, AT GUILDFORD. During the afternoon Suffrage societies of all kinds will proceed with banners to the Borough Hall. On the platform many prominent local supporters will come to show the strength of the demand. Mr. Chapman, the vice-chairman of the Surrey County Council, will take the chair, and will be supported by Viscountess Middleton, Lady Farrar, Professor Sadler, Mr. Reginald Bray, amongst many others. The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Frances Sterling, Mr. Brailsford, and Sir William Chance will all speak.

A little breathing space, and then, on NOVEMBER 2ND, THE HAMPSHIRE SOCIETIES ARE HAVING A MASS MEETING IN THE ALBERT HALL, PORTSMOUTH, when Mr. Laurence Housman will speak. On the same day the Federation Committee meets in that town at the invitation of the Portsmouth Society. During the afternoon the Society will hold a reception to entertain the representatives; and in the evening we hope the representatives will be present and support our Hampshire Society at its public meeting in the Albert Hall.

At the reception a sale of useful or ornamental things will be held to raise funds for the Federation. The hon. treasurer particularly emphasizes this fact, and asks that contributions in goods or money may be sent her not later than November 1st, addressed to Cosham, or the Speedwell Hotel, Portsmouth.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

Hon. Secretary: THE REV. C. HINSLIFF, 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, London, N.W.
President: THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN.

Mrs. Cooper, The Grammar School, Lichfield, has lent her drawing-room for a meeting on Oct. 20th, when Miss F. M. Canning will speak. A few tickets are still left for the At Home at Steinway Hall on October 26th; speaker, Miss

Olive Christian Malvery; early application for seats is necessary to prevent disappointment. On November 11th a meeting, to be preceded by a devotional service, will be held in support of the Conciliation Bill; times and places for these, with other details, will be announced next week. On November 12th the C.L.W.S. joins the other Suffrage societies in the great demonstration at the Albert Hall. Names are coming in for the procession to Westminster Abbey on November 14th, but more are needed, and sympathisers who are not members of the C.L.W.S. are cordially invited to walk with the League to the Abbey.

The Brighton and Hove Branch held its first public meeting on October 11th in the Hove Town Hall. The hall was filled by a keenly interested audience. The Rev. Vicars Boyle was in the chair, and the Rev. C. Hinscliff delivered an able and inspiring address. He proposed a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Committee's Bill; this was seconded by Mrs. H. W. Nevinson, and carried unanimously. Several new members joined the League. The C.L.W.S. literature and "The Common Cause" were sold.

MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH LEAGUE.

Oct. 22nd: Vallance Gardens, Nov. 14th: Procession to Westminster Abbey.
Hove, 3 p.m.
Oct. 26th: Steinway Hall, Miss Nov. 16th: Lady Margaret Hall, Olive Christian Malvery, 8 p.m. Oxford, Miss Maude Royden.
Nov. 11th: Service and Public Nov. 17th: Kenilworth.
Meeting (Conciliation Bill). Nov. 18th: Leamington.

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

Mr. George Alexander has very kindly lent the St. James's Theatre to the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association for a meeting on Tuesday afternoon, November 8th, which is the day the Association has chosen in "Suffrage Week." The Countess of Selborne (president) will be in the chair, and tickets (stalls 2s. 6d., dress circle 2s., pit and upper circle 1s., gallery 6d.) can be obtained from the ticket secretary, C.U.W.F.A., 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly.

The annual meeting of the Association (members only) will take place on Wednesday afternoon, November 9th, at the Westminster Palace Hotel. Many other private and public meetings are being organised for the next two months by the London and country branches.

The next number of the quarterly *Review* will be out on November 1st, containing articles by the Lady Betty Balfour, Miss Ruth Young, Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., the Hon. Ormsby Gore, M.P., and others. (Price 2d.)

Foreign News.**FINLAND.**

We have received the following admirable and patriotic letter from Miss Fürjühelm, a Finnish Member of Parliament. We commend it to Lord Cromer and Anti-Suffragists generally:—

You ask me to give the woman's point of view in regard to the action of the Russian Government in reference to the Diet.

I ask, could there be a woman's point of view on this particular question? I must say, happily not. How could there?

When the elections took place in January we women did a good deal of canvassing in order to get our women candidates into the Diet, and as to the party to which I belong, we succeeded in getting three women elected. But we had no special platform; we knew that the one question of importance for that Diet would be the defence of our right to self-government; and so we, exactly as the men did, put this plea foremost. Of what avail could Suffrage be to us, any more than to men, if we loose our constitutional rights; and what hope is there of reforms in a sham Diet without any power? This one question is predominant in the public mind, and when the historical debate of September 23rd took place, in which the Speaker refused to lay before the Diet a Bill from the Russian Council of Ministers, in which the axe was put to the very root of all our national liberties, he was supported by all parties. One woman, Dr. Tekla Hultin, took part in the debate, and she, as well as all the other members, most strongly supported the Speaker. And I ask once more: Could she have done otherwise? Thank God women are as good patriots as men, and ready to do their duty in the defence of our rights by passive resistance to all unlawful measures. This is our line of defence. We hope to persevere in it.

Of late Helsingfors has been visited by several influential English journalists—some in favour of Women's Suffrage, some very much against it. Those who were against insisted very much on the fact that Women's Suffrage has not produced any marked change in society, and we found it was no good to point to the fact that since the introduction of Adult Suffrage for both sexes, owing to political reasons, only very few, if any (I cannot remember the exact number), Bills passed by the Diet have received the sanction of the Czar. So this argument cannot be used against Women's Suffrage by any one who wants to be fair. This is the reason why we

are not able to present to the world a record of what Finnish women have achieved in Parliament, and I am afraid that many years will pass by before we have come to the end of our constitutional crisis; and so women, as well as men, must concentrate their energies to keep up the proper spirit of resistance to a short-sighted policy from which Russia can reap no good. And so through all our national troubles the feeling of citizenship is growing in the women of my country, and when the Speaker took this splendid action we women felt that he represented us as well as the men, and that we support him not only in Parliament, but also in the humble, remote cottages, where husband and wife, son and daughter, have gone to the poll together.

ANNIE FURUHJELM.

Helsingfors, October 4th, 1910.

THE NETHERLANDS.

The annual conference of the Netherland W.S.A. was held this year in Middelburg. In connection with the conference an active campaign was organized throughout the province of Zeeland, with the gratifying result that seven new centres were formed, with a total membership of 168.

A year ago the right of exercising the vote in matters connected with the Church was denied to women, the motion being lost by one vote. The same slender majority recently closed the doors of priesthood to women.

The National Union of Women Workers at Lincoln.

The Conference was held upon "Problems of Child Life and Educational Ideals." It opened on Monday, October 10th, with a public meeting, at which Mrs. Edwin Gray spoke of the ideals of the Union, which aims at "bringing women-workers into touch with one another for the better understanding and peace of the world." Lady Cecilia Roberts, in welcoming the members, condemned any limitation of the woman's sphere, declaring "Woman's work is only bounded by the thought which God puts into her mind." "Women," she said, had already "introduced a blessedness into public life which was not there before." Then the Bishop of Lincoln, in a delightful and humorous speech, contrasted the "Lady Bountifuls" of Jane Austen's time with the women-workers of to-day, who are no longer content with "palliatives," but are determined to strike at the root. It was significant that an allusion to "Some—I say it with bated breath—who wish to enlarge the scope of women in public life" was greeted with more prolonged and enthusiastic applause than was provoked by anything else that night.

On Tuesday morning the most striking and suggestive paper of the whole Conference was read—that by Dr. L. Martindale on "Physical Education." She pointed out what physical training was given to boys by savage races, and how, later, in ancient Greece, half the time of education was spent on the training of the body. "But because physical education was one-sided, and applied only to boys, and because that of girls was entirely neglected; because girls were married very early, and their full and only training in household duties was regarded as the task of their husbands, who thus had a better chance of moulding the wives to their wishes; because of these things Greek education soon began to decline."

The education of girls, she showed, was now more regarded than at any time in the last 2,000 years, largely owing to the influence of Herbert Spencer. Personally, she advocated the Greek division of half the time for physical and half for mental training for all boys and girls.

She urged the warning of all children, by scientific and biological teaching, against the dangers of alcohol, immorality, and idleness, and urged that, as in Sweden, lessons on sexual hygiene should be given in the girls' schools by women doctors, and in the boys' schools by men. Finally, she pressed for the training of every girl, as well as boy, for some trade or profession, by which she could, if she wished, support herself.

Lady Darwin and Miss E. P. Hughes spoke that afternoon on "The Relative Place in Education of Literary and Manual Training," and in the evening Dr. Gow read a carefully expressed and stimulating paper on "The Effects Upon the Nation of Universal Elementary Education."

The Council held its meetings on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and Wednesday afternoon. It was on Wednesday morning that the discussion on Suffrage literature, reported on page 446 took place. Miss Burstall read an interesting paper, in which she advocated a more humanistic system of education, and Miss Marshall, of the Women's Department of Labour Exchanges, suggested a gradual remedying of under-employment by the registration and training of women's casual labour. The Council decided that it was advisable to change the name of the Union, and referred the matter to the Executive for consideration.

Three resolutions were discussed on Thursday and passed—one relating to the better co-ordination of elementary and voluntary continuation schools, the gradual introduction of compulsory continuation schools, and the technical education of both girls and boys; a second, dealing with the abolition

of half-timers and street trading; and a third with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded.

At the special meeting of rescue-workers the subject was "Assaults on, and corruption of, children." Mrs. Gow (of the Preventive and Rescue Sectional Committee), Mrs. Bush (N.S.P.C.C.), and Miss MacDougal all agreed on the bad state of the law, and the demoralizing conditions of its administration; and Mrs. Bramwell Booth made a speech out of the fulness of her knowledge which stirred her hearers to the depths. Mr. Tennyson D'Eyncourt was to have spoken on the "Administration of the Law," but was evidently so much put out by Mrs. Booth's speech that he constituted himself into an advocate for the present law and its administration, and urged his hearers not to be "keen" and not to be "vindictive," and to remember that judges and juries were "human." He also paid an eloquent tribute to the charming and attractive nature of the criminals charged with these assaults, and seemed to regard them more as objects of pity than of reprobation. Mrs. Booth can hardly have wished for a better object-lesson to illustrate the plea for the woman's point of view in the courts of justice, and Mrs. Edwin Gray and Mrs. Higgs eloquently voiced this plea.

We wish we had space to record Miss Ashton's fine speech on continuation schools and technical training, in which she impeached us with the just reproach that "children are the only ones of God's creatures that we work before they are full grown." From fourteen to sixteen, children's education should prepare them for technical schools, and she reminded us that girls are frequently cut out from technical classes, because these can only be attended by apprentices, and trade unions prevent girls from being apprenticed. It was hypocritical to pretend that every woman had a home, but she was all in favour of having girls trained for home work as well as trades.

Miss Edgell, in a paper on University women, said we wanted another race of pious founders to endow research among women; and Miss Alice Wall and Mrs. Barton gave interesting accounts of the new thirst for knowledge among working women.

There was an ethical meeting in the evening, addressed by Mrs. George Cadbury and Canon Masterman, and on Saturday the Lord Bishop preached in the Cathedral at a special service.

A Distinguished Scotchwoman.

On Wednesday, October 12th, Miss Frances H. Melville was capped Bachelor of Divinity of the University of St. Andrews—the first woman in the five hundred years' history of the University to receive this degree.

Miss Melville has had a distinguished career. She was educated at George Watson's Ladies' College, Edinburgh, and was one of the little band of women students who attended the University there in 1892, when this first became possible. She was a brilliant student, having been placed first in the Honours Classes of Mental and of Moral Philosophy, and graduated with First Class Honours in these subjects.

After leaving the University, she was appointed to a lectureship in Psychology at Cheltenham College. But it was not long before she was singled out for promotion to the Wardenship of University Hall, St. Andrews, as successor to Miss Louisa Innes Lumsden, another pioneer in woman's education. During the ten years of her wardenship of this residential college for the women students of the University, the attendance steadily increased, and the University has now resolved to double the accommodation for women in the Hall.

Last year, when the post of Warden of Queen Margaret's College and of the women students of Glasgow University was instituted, Miss Melville was appointed the first warden, with six hundred women students as her special charge.

She is a member of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Provincial Committee for the Training of Teachers, and is convener of the committee which is making the arrangements for the women's sections of the Historical Exhibition in Glasgow next year.

Her success has been due to other than purely intellectual qualifications, because she has at their best those qualities we have grown accustomed to expect in our women pioneers—breadth and sanity of outlook, courage in her opinions, and a gracious personality.

It is not necessary to state that she is a strong supporter of Women's Suffrage. She was one of the initiators of the Scottish Women Graduates' law suit, in which they claimed that under the present law they had the right to vote for their University members of Parliament; and she was one of the five graduates in whose name the law suit was conducted. She is a member of the N.U.W.S.S., and one of the founders and a member of the executive of the Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union—a society which already has among its officials the first woman M.A., the first woman B.Sc., and the first woman LL.B. of the Scottish Universities.

At present she does not intend to enter the ministry. In her capacity as Warden of the hundreds of young women students of Glasgow, so many of whom will become teachers,

her influence on the country will no doubt be far-reaching. Her example as a pioneer should give courage to her students to cultivate a belief in themselves—that quality more needed than any other, if women are to do their duty in developing the resources of their country, mental and moral, as well as physical.

CHRYSAL MACMILLAN.

The International Institute for Co-operation in Social Reform.

Head Office: 59, Rue Claude-Bernard, Paris.

The International Institute for Co-operation in Social Reform is sending a lecturer of world-wide reputation to England in November—M. Paul Hyacinthe Loyson, who is a well-known authority on progressive movements in France, such as Secularism, Syndicalism, Feminism, etc. He is engaged to speak in English to the Secular Society in Leicester on November 20th, and to the Fabian Society in London on November 25th. The Institute is anxious that the services of so excellent a lecturer should not be wasted, and therefore if any Suffrage society wishes Mr. Loyson to lecture on any feminist subject between November 21st and 24th in the Midlands, or in London between November 26th and 28th, the Institute would make every possible effort to arrange it.

The Institute bears all the expenses of lecturers, and sends them on the one condition that for every lecture delivered two members at 10s. 6d. each shall join the Institute. This subscription entitles a member to receive one English quarterly and one foreign monthly review, all English publications of the Institute, to the gratuitous use of the International Inquiry Bureau, and the loan of foreign periodicals collected by the Institute.

Applications should be addressed to the Chairman of the London Committee, Miss C. D. Corbett, 75, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Reviews.

In *The Amazons in Antiquity and Modern Times* Mr. Guy Cadogan Rothery considers the case for and against the existence of *woman-states*, and, while discarding the *State*, shows grounds for believing the myth to have rested on historic fact, for which many parallels can be adduced all over the world and at all times.

Beyond the Caucasus lay savage races, whose very women fought "like lionesses." This, he contends, coupled with dim recollections of a matriarchal polity and the worship of Astarte, with her bloody rites and bands of women priests, suggested to Greece the woman-state—bloodthirsty, cannibal, given to human sacrifice, a menace to humanity, threatening not life alone, but the very possibility of family or civic life; and hence sprang the myth, at first a thing of horror, but softened in the telling by the humanising spirit of the Greeks to a picture of a warring race of women, proud and free, fighting on horseback, searing the breast the better to shoot, having intercourse with men only at rare intervals to prevent the extinction of their race; an army that spread from Caucasus, through Asia Minor, to Troy and Egypt, to Parthia and India, and to Greece itself. But though the woman-state belongs to myth, women bands of divers kinds are, he convinces us, no isolated phenomenon, but are found in Europe and Asia, Africa and America; some chronicled by early writers, others attested by travellers of recent days; and for all alike he finds a rational explanation in local needs at different stages of social evolution. The fortune of war depleting the men, the enforced absence of the male population at certain seasons in search of a livelihood, produces through natural causes such groups of women, who, so placed, would need to fight in self-defence, and hence the fighting Amazons; while religious observances involving the segregation of women have also played a part in their formation. Nor are any of these explanations incompatible with the theory of deliberate secession on the part of outraged women in barbaric times, though this unnatural separation is necessarily, he would have us know, bounded by the limits of man's tolerance of its existence. The inquiry is interesting, but, if I have grasped the meaning of the last paragraph, his conclusions, when brought to bear on modern problems, leave him sad.

However, despite the persistence of these courageous but unnatural organisms within the State (is there not implicit here a hint of militant Amazons in our very midst?) the world makes progress, and so he finds a certain chilly comfort in the thought of a "bright future" (when, presumably, women will have ceased from troubling), "which will not be ours, but to which humanity is heir, and whose advent we may all in some measure contribute to hasten."

Mr. Rothery has read widely and has much of interest to tell, but he seems to want to tell us all he knows, so that it is sometimes a little hard to see the wood for trees. He talks airily of "running through the old Greek writers." Apparently he ran too fast to learn the way they spelt their names, for such strange forms meet us as the *Aereopagus*;

Erythesus, King of the Mycenae; the *Cimeran Bosphorus*; and what he calls "*the oi-poloi*." But with glorious impartiality he gives us also an *ex rebo* offering and an *alta ego*. And why does Mr. Rothery, in what purports to be a scholarly discourse, call the Greek Gods by the names of their Roman counterparts?

JANET CASE.

OCTOBER MAGAZINES.

The Forerunner, written, owned, and published by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, has reached its twelfth number, and we congratulate Mrs. Gilman on having got so far without abating one inch of her own terms. The "Housekeeping Novel" and the "Book About Men" continue to run, and to challenge the conservative. "There have been," she writes, "books and books about women—mostly unpleasant. This, 'Our Androcentric Culture,' is the first one about men, as such; men as distinguished from Human Beings—as women have always been distinguished from Human Beings."

Correspondence.

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only.

SWEATED WOMEN WORKERS.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I think it would be so helpful in enlisting sympathy if we could give in the window of a committee-room, or Suffrage shop, some concrete example of the hardships of poor women at the present time. For example, could we not show examples of sweated industries, with particulars of the time the articles have taken to make, the rate at which they are paid, and the maximum amount earned in a week? We are probably opening a shop for the week beginning November 4th in Preston, and we should be so glad if you, or any of your readers, could help us in carrying out this idea, borrowed from the Tariff Reform shops and Liberal committee-room displays of exported goods, or could tell us to whom to apply for help.—Yours,

BEATRICE TODD.

Penwortham House, near Preston, Oct. 14th.

[We think our correspondent could not do better than apply to the secretary of the National Anti-Sweating League, Mr. J. L. Mallon, 133, Salisbury Square, London, E.C.—Ed., "C. C."]

A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I think it would be a very good idea to remind the Prime Minister of our existence the day Parliament opens. If the secretary of each society would send a telegram at 12 a.m. to 10, Downing Street, the constant stream of telegraph boys would, it seems to me, be a good, though mild and inoffensive, advertisement for us, and a gentle reminder for Mr. Asquith that we are watching the fate of our Bill.—Yours,

VIOLET M. MATTHEWS.

[We have frequently received suggestions of this nature, and we recognize the intention. But, as a matter of fact, we believe communications of this sort to be absolutely valueless, if not positively harmful. They give an impression of futility, and we believe even sixpence could be more profitably employed than in giving such an impression to the Prime Minister.—Ed. "C. C."]

WOMEN TAXPAYERS.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Would any of your readers be kind enough to tell me how much is contributed by women to the National Exchequer in direct taxation, or to whom it would be best to apply for such information?—Yours,

JOSEPHINE M. BARETTI.

49, Royal York Crescent, Clifton.

October 12th, 1910.

IS THE BILL ALIVE?

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—In your leading article of October 13th you say that I am trying to bury prematurely the Conciliation Bill; that that Bill is so much alive that its existence is equal to a standing offer of "votes for 1½ million women now," as against the alternative (which you say I foolishly prefer), "votes for a greater number of women some day."

If I believed the first alternative was still open I would accept it, as an instalment and as a call to hard work for more extended freedom.

But I agree, on the contrary, with a certain statement that "The Common Cause" and all Suffragists made before July 13th and circulated to M.P.s, that a vote for sending

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the Bill to Committee of the whole House would be considered as a hostile vote, and one fatal to the Bill. I believe that the 320 M.P.s who voted for Committee of the whole House did, with some few exceptions, intend their vote to be taken in that sense by the Government—not as a vote against the principle of Women's Suffrage, but as a vote against that particular form of it.

By suppressing all allusion now to this adverse vote which we said beforehand would kill the Bill, we cannot alter the fact. By accusing the Government of resisting pressure from the House we cannot make the Government feel that pressure. That could only be done by organizing the pressing forces. Personally, from what I have been told, both by Labour and Liberal leaders, those forces are not there to organize.

I therefore seriously think a better chance would be to organize pressure both inside and outside the House for a wider measure, including wives of occupiers as well as women occupiers.—Yours,

ELEANOR ACLAND.

5, Cheyne Place, Royal Hospital Road, S.W.
October 15th, 1910.

MR. ASQUITH'S PLEDGE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—When in a dispute the other side has the whip-hand, is it not better to give their case full recognition than

to treat them as having no case at all? This question presented itself to me after reading your leading article of last week, and I ask to be allowed to deal with it. I do not write on behalf of any particular solution of the Suffrage question, nor in defence of Mrs. Acland, with whose position you were dealing, but simply in the hope of obtaining a little more light on the present position of the question.

The point of your article is to make out that Mr. Lloyd George is a fool, and Mr. Asquith a knave, for you quote Mr. Lloyd George as having said at Criccieth that he did not know why Mr. Asquith's pledge had not been given a chance; and then you argue that this statement is meaningless, and that the pledge has been ignored by the Government. Surely it is better "to give the devil his due," and in this case to recognize that Mr. Lloyd George was talking sense, and that Mr. Asquith's pledge still stands, and has a definite meaning. The pledge was: "The Government recognize that the House ought to have opportunities, if that is their deliberate desire, for dealing effectively with the whole question." If you consider these words you will see that it is not sufficient to dismiss them, as you do in the article, by asking, "Did Suffragists hinder or obstruct Mr. Asquith in raising the whole question?" He never said that he himself would raise it. His words surely mean that if the House of Commons desires to raise the issue in such a way that the whole question can be fully discussed, they must be given full opportunity to pass their Bill. What, then, is the position? First, the Conciliation Bill, rightly or wrongly, gave no chance for this pledge to be redeemed, for it deliberately excluded from discussion the more democratic solutions of the question. Secondly, it seems to be doubtful whether Suffragists can demand the fulfilment of the pledge by offering to recommit the Conciliation Bill in a form which would permit of broadening amendments, during the autumn session. Governments do not usually allow longer time for short autumn sessions than they want for their own business, and they generally take the full time of the House, and refuse to give any time to opposed private members' Bills. The Government, therefore, would probably now be justified in refusing to give the fortnight or so which a Bill raising the whole question would take. But thirdly, the pledge still exists, and it ought to be given a chance. If Suffrage societies, while still trying to avoid making the matter a party issue, can agree upon a Bill raising the whole question, which will neither ask Conservatives to increase the forces of democracy, nor ask Liberals, as all their proposals have hitherto done, to increase the forces of reaction, they ought to secure a good driving majority behind it, and unless the pledge be deliberately broken, will be certain of full facilities for getting their Bill right through next session.

It surely is not wise from any point of view to ignore these considerations in favour of a policy of demanding immediate facilities for the present Conciliation Bill, combined with unlimited abuse of the Government.

What form a Bill which would be really fair as between the two parties would take is another matter. I cannot think of anything better than the present Conciliation Bill, less the split occupation franchise, plus all wives of male occupiers.—Yours,

F. D. ACLAND.

5, Cheyne Place, Royal Hospital Road, S.W.

October 15th, 1910.

[We refer to the letters from Mr. and Mrs. Acland in "News of the Week."]

DESCENT OF REAL PROPERTY.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—The words used by me in referring to the above subject were: "Real estate, under our man-made laws of inheritance, cannot descend to women."

A standard dictionary thus defines the word "descend": "To pass from a preceding possessor according to the laws of inheritance." It is beside the mark for anyone to bring forward the case of wills or entails, as if they refuted my statement.

Real estate passing under a will does not descend, it is devised. The testator may devise it to whomsoever he pleases,

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and the estate will only pass according to the terms of the will.

Entailed estate will only pass according to the terms of the entail, whatever they may happen to be, and the laws of inheritance will have nothing to do with it.

Where real estate descends, males are invariably preferred to females, and even a widower is entitled to enjoy an estate as "tenant by the courtesy," though there is no "courtesy" for a widow.

The one case in which an estate of freehold may descend to a female is when she is the sole person left in the line of descent, and this case so rarely happens that it is practically negligible. Should there be more females than one left, they will be coparceners, and take equal shares, however many they may be. This naturally tends to induce people to entail their property, in order to prevent it from being split up amongst an indefinite number of females in the absence of a male descendant.

I have known even Anti-Suffragists to gird at these laws, and a barrister who is deeply in sympathy with the woman's movement, says, in describing the laws which regulate the descent of real property, that they "are opposed to all principles of natural justice, but have become firmly engrained in our legal system, and the nation appears to accept them with equanimity."

I have noticed this latter phenomenon myself, as it is evident that the infliction of a double injury on defenceless women (as in the case I was dealing with in my earlier letter) evokes no sympathy whatever.

Only the idea that some injustice is being done to men seems to be capable of disturbing the equanimity of some women. I sincerely hope that this tender solicitude is duly appreciated by its objects.—Yours,

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE.

Craven House, Kingsway, October 16th, 1910.

ASSAULTS ON CHILDREN.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Your valuable paper is doing a great work in educating public opinion to the right understanding of the true position of women in the State.

I write to urge you most earnestly to open its columns to the full discussion of what seems to me to be the pressing need of the day if our young girls and children are to have adequate protection in their hour of need.

I allude to the necessity of the appointment of duly qualified women magistrates to assist in the adjudication of all cases brought up before the Police Courts in which girls and children are the victims and men the offenders.

I had this question most painfully brought to my notice at a rescue meeting which I attended only a few days ago. It was there that I realised, from the remarks which fell from the lips of a police magistrate, that the inadequate sentences meted out to those offenders convicted of criminal assaults, as also the number of cases "not proven," are due to the fact that it is persons of the male sex only who conduct these cases.

If any of your readers have had the same experience as myself, and were present at the above-mentioned meeting, they will, I feel sure, thoroughly share my indignation at the facts disclosed on that occasion.—Yours,

KATHERINE M. HARLEY

(President Shropshire Branch N.U.W.S.S.).

[We agree most fully with Mrs. Harley. A correspondent has just sent us a Reading paper in which is reported the case of a man indicted for attempting a serious offence against a girl under thirteen years; the man pleaded guilty; "his Lordship, taking into consideration the fact that Gibbons had been of good behaviour (with this exception) since he had been bound over a year ago, dealt leniently with him, passing sentence of two months' hard labour." Another man of twenty-seven admitted having tried to assault a girl of twelve; he was given four months' hard labour. We let these men loose again to destroy little girls. Ed. "C. O."]

Editorial.

We have been obliged, much to our regret, to hold over more than five columns of reports, including the account of a dinner to Mrs. Fawcett at Newcastle.

Reports of Societies within the 'National Union.

Secretaries would simplify the work by sending in notices of FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, endorsed with those words, with time, place, and speakers legibly written, on one side of the paper only, and on a sheet of paper separate from other matter. (The following were unavoidably held over last week.)

KENDAL.

Very successful meetings have been held this week in Carnforth and Milnthorpe, Miss A. M. Royden being the speaker. A drawing-room meeting was also held on Monday at Yealand Conyers, Carnforth, through the kindness of Mrs. Rawlinson Ford.

The Carnforth meeting, on Monday, 3rd, caused us some anxious moments, as it was the first Women's Suffrage meeting that had been held there. Quite half an hour before the meeting was advertised to begin the hall began to fill, and at eight o'clock there was hardly any sitting room left. The Rev. J. Whiteside, Vicar of Kelsington, Kendal, took the chair. During the whole time Miss Royden spoke the audience listened with absorbed attention, and one felt, while watching their faces, that all were deeply interested and anxious to learn more of the whole question. We feel very grateful to Miss Ford, both for having a drawing-room meeting and also for organizing the public meeting, also to Mr. John Runskill and Mr. Howard for acting as stewards.

Mrs. Gandy, our Vice-President, presided at the meeting at Milnthorpe on the 5th. In her introductory speech she alluded to the great loss we have sustained in the death of our President, Miss Wakefield, the founder of the Westmorland Musical Festival. When Miss Royden rose to speak she was given a very hearty reception, and all that she said was listened to with attention and evident enjoyment. The results of both meetings were most satisfactory, as we were able to break ground in a new district, and also to get a great many new members.

LEEDS.

Owing to an introduction through Miss Hargrove, Miss Fielden has had the opportunity of speaking indoors, in the dinner-hour, to some of the girl employees at different factories. On the 26th she spoke at Messrs. Goodall, Backhouse, and the following Wednesday at Messrs. Brown and Sons. On Monday, the 26th, Miss Fielden also spoke to a most interested and sympathetic women's meeting, held at Lady Lane Schoolroom. At the close we had an unexpected and delightful surprise. Miss Ashworth, from India, who is a strong Suffragist, gave a short speech with some valuable information.

The following Sunday, as Miss I. O. Ford had not returned from her holiday, her place was taken by Miss Fielden, who addressed the joint adult classes of Hunslet and Mill Hill Unitarian Chapels in the Priestley Hall. The attendance was excellent, and the tone of the meeting most sympathetic.

The following day Miss Fielden was away at Huddersfield, speaking to the Women Liberals, who passed the resolution without a dissentient. On Tuesday we had a brilliant victory in the debate at the Leeds Institute, for though those of our members who could come supported their cause in splendid numbers, they were in a small minority compared to the size of the audience. The voting was in the proportion of four to one in our favour, or, as one of the papers said, "carried by an overwhelming majority."

Dr. Mary Phillips gave a delightful drawing-room meeting on Wednesday. The chair was taken by a prominent woman, and the speakers were Miss I. O. Ford and Miss Fielden. Several new members joined the Leeds Women's Suffrage Society. On Thursday a drawing-room meeting was given by Mrs. Hart, of Roundhay. Mrs. Parrish took the chair, and Miss Fielden spoke on the unjust laws and the one-sided legislation. Another drawing-room was offered, and Mrs. Hart, in replying to the vote of thanks, very kindly placed hers again at our disposal.

LETCHEWORTH.

On Thursday, the 6th, in the afternoon, Miss Reckitt most hospitably entertained at Howgills a gathering, of which the unconverted formed a large part. After tea in the garden we adjourned to the Friends' Meeting House adjoining to hear a speech from Mr. Laurence Housman. In the few lines available it would be impossible to give an idea of the freshness and originality of this deeply interesting and remarkably comprehensive address, which dealt with the women's question both on its historical and its modern side. Mr. Housman concluded his address with a vigorous denunciation of the system of government by party.

Mr. Nowers presided, and spoke with his usual effectiveness and point.

For the "Suffrage Evening" the Pixmore Institute was packed with a lively, responsive audience. After a pleasant programme of music, to which Miss Reynolds contributed two charming Suffrage songs, came another brilliant address from Mr. Housman, and then the comedy, "How the Vote was Won," acted by Letchworth amateurs with very great spirit and "go." Over £10 was cleared for the Society, and there were a good number of converts.

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LONDON—BLACKHEATH.

A members' meeting was held on October 3rd at 7, Vanbrugh Park, Blackheath, by kind permission of Mrs. Japp. There was a very good attendance. Mr. Coppertwaite, in the chair, introduced the speaker, Miss Janet Thompson, and also spoke of the public meeting to be held on November 4th, when Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. Cholmeley would speak. Miss Janet Thompson spoke of the Conciliation Bill, and made a strong appeal to the audience by her description of the conditions under which many women are now working. Miss Theobald spoke of the Women's Supplement to "The Times" and of the growing energies of the Anti-Suffragists, and announced the formation of a speakers' class. She began on Monday, October 10th, with Miss Eileen Hughes as teacher. The organizer of the public meeting, Miss Spalding, reported work already done and in preparation, and asked for the cordial support of members, both financially and by personal help, and announced that the tickets were in readiness and for sale at the Suffrage Shop, opposite Blackheath Railway Station.

LONDON—HIGHGATE.

The influx of new students into a college affords an opportunity for propaganda work. A meeting was therefore arranged at the Froebel Educational Institute as a means of bringing the woman's movement before those who hitherto have not given it a thought.

Mr. Chanceller, M.P., a staunch friend of the cause, addressed the students, and was enthusiastically received. In his speech he showed that the demand for enfranchisement on the part of women was a natural outcome of an improved education. He proved that women have from earliest times undertaken successfully public duties and offices, and that their interests have not been confined to the home alone. Their influence has been essential and for good. Many reforms have been solely the result of woman's initiative and efforts. He said the delay of justice might be traced to man's failure to view the situation from a woman's standpoint. Later he discussed the fate of Bills for women's enfranchisement, and the work of the Conciliation Committee in drawing up the Bill now before Parliament. Despite the unfavourable atmosphere there, it would still be urged; the agitation could not be ineffectual much longer. Meanwhile it behoved us as teachers and women to educate the masses. If more Members of Parliament were like Mr. Chanceller, victory would be assured.

As a result of the meeting several new members were added to the London Society.

NORTH OF ENGLAND.

There are still a number of tickets at all prices unsold for the Free Trade Hall meeting on Tuesday, October 25th. All members are urged to make an effort to sell them in the short time that still remains. We must have the hall full for this great demonstration. Free tickets may also be obtained from the office, 85, Deansgate Arcade.

PENRITH.

On October 5th we had a public meeting in the Alhambra. The speakers were Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. Frank Marshall, of Keswick. Mr. Crackanthorpe, of Newbiggin Hall, took the chair, having very kindly postponed his intended departure to the South until the day after the meeting.

Mrs. Fawcett proposed the resolution asking the Government to grant time in the coming autumn session for the further stages of Mr. Shackleton's Bill, and during her able speech dealt at some length with the Conciliation Bill. Mr. Marshall, who is a member of the Men's League, seconded the resolution, and made a special appeal to the men present to help the women in their cause.

The audience was the largest and most varied that we have hitherto had in Penrith, and the resolution was carried by a good majority. Copies of the resolution have been sent to the four party leaders and to the eight Members of Parliament of Cumberland and Westmorland.

RADCLIFFE-CUM-FARNWORTH.

Two meetings were held in support of the Bill—one in Farnworth Moor Hall, on October 4th, and one in Radcliffe Co-operative Hall, on October 5th. Miss Stirling proposed the resolution at both meetings, the seconds being Mrs. Cooper at Farnworth and Miss Robertson at Radcliffe. In each case it was passed unanimously and forwarded to the Prime Minister and the Member for the division. The Rev. H. Gordon took the chair at Farnworth and the Rev. A. Kershaw at Radcliffe; both rectors made excellent Suffrage speeches and seemed much impressed with the arguments of the other speakers. Twenty new members joined, and ninety-four "Common Causes" were sold.

WEST BROMWICH.

On October 6th the quarterly meeting of the above Society was held in the Carnegie Library Lecture Room. The chair was taken by Dr. Hamilton McCombie, M.A., Ph.D., lecturer in the Birmingham University, who gave a most interesting address, emphasizing the democratic character of the Conciliation Bill, and proving the incontrovertible claims of women to enfranchisement. He also moved the following resolution, which was carried unanimously: "That this meeting earnestly urges the Government to grant facilities for the passing into law of the Representation of the People Bill, 1910." This was seconded by Miss le Clerc Phillips, who in an able address dealt with Lord Cromer's six "unanswerable" arguments against Women's Suffrage, and answered each to the complete satisfaction of her audience. The Hon. Secretary also read her report of the past three months, which showed a steady increase in membership, and announced that steps were already being taken to form a branch of the Men's League in West Bromwich. A good collection was taken and much literature sold.

WEST HERTS.

We have begun our autumn campaign now in good earnest. A series of meetings for working women has been arranged in Bushey and Watford. At the meeting held last week in Bushey, Mrs. Workman gave a splendid address on "The Home and the Vote." We give tea on these occasions, and this makes the meetings happier and more sociable for all concerned.

On October 13th Mrs. Robinson will open a discussion on Women's Suffrage at the Congregational Literary and Debating Society. It was intended to secure a speaker from the Anti-Suffrage League to oppose her, but one was not to be had.

On October 17th we held a public meeting which will be addressed by Lord Robert Cecil and Miss Frances Sterling.

YORK.

On Wednesday, October 5th, an interested and attentive audience was addressed by Mr. E. P. Holmes at the Coffee House, Walmgate Ward, York. The speaker, in an able manner, explained the Conciliation Bill now before Parliament. A discussion followed, and at the close of the meeting the following resolution was put and carried unanimously: "That this meeting urges the Government to allow immediate facilities for the passing of the Women's Suffrage Bill now before the House of Commons." Miss Edith M. Thompson presided.

Other Societies.

CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.

The Crystal Palace Branch of the above association held an At Home in St. Aubyn's Hall on October 5th. Mrs. Tomkinson was the hostess, and Mrs. Marshall took the chair. Miss Abadam delivered an address on "Women's Suffrage, the Nation's Benefit." She said the movement for the enfranchisement of women was an eminently reasonable one. Women had views upon education, the protection of girls, upon Home Rule, the Budget, and other matters affecting the well-being of the country, and they contended they ought to have a voice in electing those men who dealt with such questions. Miss Martin also spoke, and a resolution welcoming the work of the Conciliation Committee was carried unanimously.

THE SUFFRAGE ATELIER.

A Suffrage Fair will be held on October 21-22 behind the Pembroke Cottages, Kensington. Tickets and handbills can be obtained from all Suffrage Societies. The following societies will co-operate, each having a stall or side-show:—N.U.W.S.S. (Kensington Branch), W.S.P.U. (Women's Press), W.F.L. (sweet stall), Men's League (cigarettes), Men's Political Union, New Constitutional Society (International Press and badges), Younger Suffragists, Writers' Suffrage League (bookstall), and Suffrage Atelier. Entertainments will be given by strolling players organized by Miss Edith Craig. Exhibitions of many of the original drawings for the well-known illustrations of Walter Crane, R.W.S., and Laurence Housman will be held in the studio. Cover will be provided in case of rain.

Forthcoming Meetings.

OCTOBER 20.	
North of England—East Manchester—Miss Robertson.	8.0
Dublin—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—Com- mittee Meeting.	11.30
Leamington—Town Hall—Public Meeting—Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Abadam.	8.0



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London—Camberwell—The Tabernacle, Rye Lane—Miss I. O. Ford.	7.30
Hitchin—Town Hall—Earl of Lytton, Mrs. Swanwick.	8.0
Birmingham—Harborne—Institute—Miss Phillips.	8.0
Leeds—Akworth School, Pontefract—Debate—Miss Fielden.	
Edinburgh—69, Leamington Terrace—Drawing-room Meeting.	
Edinburgh—42, Upper Gray Street—Drawing-room Meeting.	
Birmingham—Sutton—Church Room—Miss Southall, Mrs. Ring.	3.15
London—Islington—Debate—Miss C. Corbett, Miss Stuart.	8.15
London—Quarterly Conference of Executive Committee with Local Committees.	5.0
Bristol—Federation Committee Meeting.	3.0

OCTOBER 21.	
North of England—East Manchester—Mrs. Rogerson, Miss Walthe. Woking—Duke Street—Open-air Meeting—Miss Corbett, Miss Thomson.	8.0

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home.	4.0 and 8.0
Birmingham—Northfield—Mrs. Osler, Rev. A. Pinchard.	
Birmingham—Solihull—Miss Phillips, Mrs. Ring.	
Haslemere—Beacon Hill Hall—Public Meeting—Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P.	7.30

Altrincham Society—Bowdon—Assembly Rooms—Amateur Dramatic Performance.	8.30
Ramsgate—Meeting for Women Municipal Voters and Members— Miss Macaulay.	7.45
Cambridge—Newnham College—Miss Ray Costelloe.	8.0

OCTOBER 22.	
London—Highgate—Open-air Meeting—Miss H. G. Cohen, Miss Ruth Young.	8.0

Altrincham Society—Bowdon—Assembly Rooms—Amateur Dramatic Performance.	8.0
Leeds—Mrs. Duncan's Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Parrish, Miss Fielden.	3.30

Norwood—Suffrage Offices—Dr. A. Vowe Johnson, Miss Abadam.	7.0
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OCTOBER 23.	
London—Kingston—Mrs. Stanbury.	7.30

OCTOBER 24.	
Llandudno—Cambridge Room—Miss Eskridge	8.0
London—Sutton—Freemasons' Hall—Public Meeting—Mrs. Fawcett.	8.15

Edinburgh—Oddfellows' Hall—H. N. Brailsford, Esq.	8.0
Haslemere—Schools—Public Meeting—Mr. Laurence Housman.	8.0
Wakefield—Olympia Garage—Open-air Meeting—Miss Fielden.	
London—Camberwell—Station Road—Mrs. Meyer.	7.30
London—Blackheath—3a, Eliot Place—Speakers' Class.	5.0
Birmingham—George Dixon Schools—Dr. McCombie, Mrs. Ring.	8.0
London—58, Victoria Street—Speakers' Class—Miss M. Corbett, B.A.	3.0

OCTOBER 25.	
North of England—Free Trade Hall—Lord Lytton, the Lady Betty Balfour, and others.	

London—Wandsworth—Town Hall—Miss B. Mason, Mr. Walter McLaren, M.P.	7.45
London—Kensington, S.—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Leslie Thompson, Miss Ruth Young.	4.0

Edinburgh—Iona Street—Open-air Meeting—Miss Lisa Gordon.	
OCTOBER 26.	
Birmingham—Town Hall—Lady Frances Balfour, Lord Lytton. Southport—Town Hall—Lady Betty Balfour, Miss Rathbone.	8.0

Bournemouth—St. Peter's Hall—Mrs. H. Fawcett.	8.0
Filey—Masonic Hall—Annual Meeting—Miss I. O. Ford.	
London—Wimbledon—Members' Meeting—Lady Anderson, Mrs. Mallet.	3.0

Nottingham—Monthly At Home—Miss Mildred Martineau.	3.30
Nottingham—Weekly At Home—Miss Martineau.	7.30

OCTOBER 27.	
Brighton—The Dome—The Earl of Lytton, Percy Alden, Esq., M.P.	8.15

Bridlington—Miss I. O. Ford.	
London—Kingston—Surbiton Assembly Rooms—Lady Frances Balfour.	3.0

London—Hampstead—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Myline.	4.0
Basingstoke—Town Hall—Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.	8.0

Leeds—Horsforth Socialist Club—Debate—Miss Fielden, Mr. George Lily.	8.0
Bristol—111a, Whiteladies Road—Debate.	3.30

London—58, Victoria Street—Reception to Members and Friends.	4.0
OCTOBER 28.	
Shrewsbury—Public Meeting—Lady Frances Balfour.	3.0

London—Kensington, S.—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Hogg.	8.30
Bath—Deputation to M.P.s.	2.45
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home—Mrs. More Nesbitt.	

Guilford—Borough Hall—Procession and Meeting—Lady Frances Balfour, H. N. Brailsford, Esq.	3.30
Norwood—Suffrage Offices—Lady Constance Lytton, Miss Abadam.	7.0

OCTOBER 31.	
London—Windsor and Eton—Grove Road Schoolroom—Mr. Th. Guggenheim.	8.0

London—Blackheath—3a, Eliot Place—Speakers' Class.	5.0
London—Bermondsey—Mission Room—Mrs. Rogers.	3.0
Cambridge—Gamingay—Miss Cochrane, Mrs. Rackham.	8.0
London—58, Victoria Street—Speakers' Class—Miss M. Corbett.	3.0
Bath—Lacock—Miss Abadam, Miss Wheelwright.	7.0

NOVEMBER 1.	
London—Ealing—Princes Hall—Annual General Meeting— Lantern Lecture—Miss Mason.	7.30
Cambridge—Great Grarden—Miss Cochrane, Mrs. Rackham.	8.0
London—Central Finsbury—Miss Janet Thomson, B.A.	

SCOTTISH FEDERATION.	
October 21: Dingwall, Miss Mason.	8.0
GLASGOW CAMPAIGN.	
October 20: Greenock, Drawing-room Meeting.	3.0
Cinderston Co-op. Guild, St. Andrew's Hall.	8.0
October 21: Open-air, Charing Cross, Miss Lamond.	8.0
October 24: St. Rolox Co-op. Guild, Miss Lamond.	8.0

October 26: Open-air, Wellington Street, Miss Kirby.	7.30
October 27: St. George's Co-op. Guild, Miss Lamond.	8.0
October 28: Open-air, Charing Cross, Miss Kirby.	8.0
October 31: Open-air, Wellington Street, Miss Stuart Paterson.	7.30
November 2: Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. Gemmill, Miss Lamond.	3.0
Open-air, Charing Cross, Miss Stuart Paterson.	8.0
November 3: Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. Chalmers Smith, Miss Lamond.	3.0
November 5: Greenock, Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Lamond.	8.0

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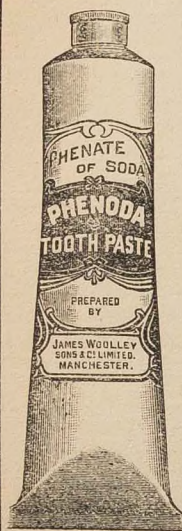
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