

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

EDITED BY FREDERICK & EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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us to see much more clearly than it is possible to do during the thick of the fight how very much has been accomplished. At the end of last year votes for women was still considered in many quarters to be a subject of minor interest. But during the current year it has been admitted by politicians and by the public Press on both sides to be in the front rank of political questions.

"Practical Politics."

Striking instances of this have been the statements made by Mr. Churchill at Manchester and Dundee. At the former he said, on April 15:—"The woman suffrage movement is gradually spreading to all classes of women, and that being so it assumes the same character as franchise movements have previously attained." At the latter he said, on May 2, that the movement was now in the arena of practical politics, and added that no one could be blind to the fact that at the next General Election women's suffrage would be a real, practical issue, unless it had already been dealt with in the present Parliament. On May 21 the *Westminster Gazette* referred to woman suffrage as a question of "even greater importance" than the whole question of electoral reform. The *Times* has on more than one occasion urged opponents of woman suffrage to be up and doing, that the "great danger" might be averted; while the *Spectator* has pleaded piteously in its columns for the same resistance.

Showing Numbers.

Again, it was as recently as February 28 of this year that Mr. Gladstone, in the House of Commons, said that if women were going to win the vote they must show the same sort of numbers that the men had done, not merely by having indoor meetings of a few thousands, but by outdoor demonstrations of tens of thousands. Since that day women have "shown numbers" not merely as great as the men did in the thirties, the sixties, and the eighties, but on a still larger scale. The Hyde Park Demonstration of Sunday, June 21, organised by the W.S.P.U., was admitted on all hands to be the largest political demonstration ever known in the history of the country. The march to the Albert Hall of ten thousand women, organised by the other Suffrage societies, was also admitted to be one of the most impressive processions ever carried out. But these have been only two of the most important occasions on which numbers in favour of woman suffrage were shown. They have been also exhibited by monster meetings, both outdoors and indoors, in many of the provincial towns. At these demonstrations, organised by the W.S.P.U., the demand for the vote has been given almost unanimous expression.

The Women are in Earnest.

Of greater importance even than numbers are the earnestness and determination of those who are in the front of

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DEDICATION.

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK.

The brief respite from political activity provided by the Summer Vacation makes it possible to take stock of the progress which has been made by the Women's Movement during the current year. This opportunity enables

the battle, and of this abundant evidence has been given during the current year. Between 80 and 90 women have gone to prison for their opinions, refusing to accept the easy alternative of being bound over to keep the peace, which would have implied an abandonment of their agitation. Among this number has to be included Mrs. Pankhurst, the founder of the W.S.P.U., who, together with 12 of her followers, served a sentence of six weeks in Holloway gaol in February and March, while there are even now in prison seven women who have been subjected to a still longer term of imprisonment. The kind of spirit which lies behind these women is that which provides the force which it is impossible for any Government to resist, and which can only be stopped by meeting in a reasonable manner their just demand.

Sacrifices in £ s. d.

Another very important measure of the earnestness of the women in the cause of their enfranchisement is the extent to which they have been found willing to make financial sacrifices for it, and in this also the past seven months have been remarkable. Up to the end of 1907 a total of between six and seven thousand pounds had been raised by the Women's Social and Political Union. This sum was surpassed in the current year by the single effort of the self-denial fortnight; and in the whole seven months no less than £12,000 has been subscribed to prosecute the campaign. It is specially noticeable that this sum has been forthcoming literally from thousands of donors of all classes and of all political creeds who have united in their common desire to win women the vote.

The By-elections.

One of the most effective means of bringing home to the Government the inexpediency of continuing to oppose the women's claim has been the successful attack made upon the Government nominee in the by-elections which have taken place during the year. Wherever a fight has occurred the W.S.P.U. has been in evidence, and in every case in England the Liberal majority has been enormously reduced. Among the most remarkable cases in which the work of the women has been most generally recognised have been the Government defeats in Mid-Devon, Peckham, N.W. Manchester, and Haggerston. Though Liberal candidates have endeavoured to diminish the effectiveness of the women's opposition by declaring themselves personally in favour of Women's Suffrage (and this has been done in nearly every case), they have not even by this subterfuge been able to make any headway against the enthusiasm aroused by the women speakers and by the determination of the electors to show their sympathy in the only practical way in support of their claim to the vote.

Protesting at Cabinet Ministers' Meetings.

On many occasions also protests have been effectively made at the meetings of Cabinet Ministers. This has had the effect, admitted in several cases, of interfering with carefully prepared utterances, and of bringing on the ministers the banter of their fellows. The speakers have been made to realise that they cannot with impunity place women outside the pale of political citizenship; and that if they attempt to do so women will avail themselves of the same methods of calling attention to their grievances which voteless men have invariably been obliged to adopt before they were attended to.

Educating the Country.

These seven months of the year have also been ones of great activity in the matter of education in the country. The W.S.P.U. alone has held upwards of 3,000 meetings of various kinds, which have been attended by a number of people aggregating several millions. In addition to this the Union has issued and sold an immense quantity of literature, making a turnover of over £1,000. The paper, VOTES FOR WOMEN, has been placed regularly on a weekly basis, and its circulation has quadrupled in the course of the year.

In Parliament.

In Parliament itself the members have given their adhesion to the principle of Women's Suffrage, and, by an overwhelming majority, carried, on February 28, the second reading of Mr. Stanger's Enfranchisement Bill. This action, though not leading to any immediate practical result, has placed upon the Government the onus of its refusal to proceed further with the question, and led Mr. Asquith, on May 20, to make a pronouncement as to the intentions of the Government in the matter. Though we ourselves have never regarded this pronouncement as more than indicating a desire to appear conciliatory, the impression produced upon the general Press of the country was very interesting. For the first time many of them were compelled to take the question seriously, and to admit, whether they liked it or no, that it had now entered the arena of practical politics.

Progress Due to "The Militants."

That the remarkable progress of Woman Suffrage has been due to the militant tactics of the Suffragettes is now very rarely denied. And constant confirmation of it is provided by the Press. We may instance the following:—"The militant Suffragists have undoubtedly brought the question, after many years of suspended activity, into the region of practical politics" (*The Westminster Gazette*, June 15); "In less than three years the women's movement has conquered the most stubborn conservatism of all—the conservatism of a privileged sex" (*The Daily News*, June 15); "Mr. Asquith's concession is a tribute to the vehement agitation of the last few months" (*The Daily Express*, May 21); "There can be no doubt that the electioneering methods strenuously pursued by the women Suffragists have made an impression strong and uncomfortable on the political party in power" (*The Scotsman*, May 21). Such phrases, which are now of almost daily occurrence, are a refreshing change from the hypocritical nonsense about putting the hands of the clock back, with which we used to be favoured in the early days of the agitation.

The Future.

The vantage ground from which we survey the past provides also a point from which to gaze into the future. Never before have we felt so confident of success. Never before have we been so assured that the forces which we have at our disposal are capable of encountering and overcoming, at no distant date, the forces arrayed against us. We fight for a great and sound principle, and we fight to win. Our opponents are fighting on behalf of a reactionary privilege, and every day they are losing ground. For all the forces of life and light are with us, and victory cannot be long withheld.

THE HISTORY OF THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

By SYLVIA PANKHURST. XX.—Rival Organisations.

The dames of the Primrose League proved so powerful a force in the General Election of 1885, that the other political parties began to feel that they, too, must endeavour to secure some women to work for them. Liberal and Radical Associations now passed numerous and varied resolutions, some declaring that canvassing should be prohibited by law, and others that it would be advisable to have "female political emissaries."

Strenuous efforts were made to induce women to become members of Liberal organisations. In 1886 the Cobden Club committee elected Florence Nightingale, Mrs. Cobden Sickert (daughter of Richard Cobden), Mrs. G. M. Crawford of Paris, and Mlle. Raffalsvich as members of the club; ten women were elected to the Birmingham Liberal "Two Thousand," and many Liberal clubs placed women upon their committees.

In November, 1886, a meeting at the National Liberal Club resolved to form "a National Liberal League for the association of men and women for the purpose of counteracting the influence of the Primrose League and of promoting Liberal principles throughout the British Empire."

"Female Political Emissaries."

On May 27, 1886, a conference was held at the house of Mrs. Theodore Fry to form a Central Women's Federation for the promotion of Liberal principles.

This Women's Liberal Federation soon united a very large body of women, and by the spring of 1889 there were already 33,500 members. The Federation held its first annual conference in the Hotel Métropole on February 26, 1887. One of the suggestions made to the committee had been that the object of the Federation should be "just legislation for women and children." But they had struck out women and children, and made it "just legislation for all." This was now adopted by the conference, and it was also decided that men as well as women should be eligible as members.

After the business of the conference was over a public meeting was held, at which Mrs. Gladstone presided, and a number of Liberal Members of Parliament spoke. The chief point in all the speeches was that the women who met in this Liberal Federation must agree to sink all the special questions in which as women they were interested, and must band themselves together in working to return to power those Liberal leaders who had so recently declared that women were unfitted to take part in politics, and had so persistently denied them the Parliamentary vote.

In order to induce women Suffragists to join the Federation it was said that in their separate associations the women Liberals might work for any particular object that might attract them, but that in the Federation itself they must think "of the party and nothing but the party."

Early in 1888 a Women's Liberal Unionist Association was formed by Mrs. Leonard Courtney, Miss Tod, Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Fawcett, and others. Women members had already been admitted to the British Home Rule Association.

Most of the prominent Suffragist women had now thrown in their lot with societies attached to one or other of the men's political parties, and, as a consequence of this, their efforts to secure their own enfranchisement were substantially reduced. They hoped to compensate for this by keeping the question as a foremost plank in the programme of each of the new women's societies that they had joined; but their efforts were always deprecated by the party leaders,

and as many of the Suffragists themselves became possessed by the desire for party unity at all costs, the enfranchisement of women was allowed by degrees to drift far out of the line of practical politics.

At the annual meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation, held in the Grosvenor Galleries on May 28, 1889, a resolution to make women's suffrage one of the aims of the Federation was defeated.

The Suffragists had split up their ranks into separate parties, and as an outcome of this the Suffrage society itself was torn asunder. A proposal was made that bodies organised for other political objects should, on declaring their belief in votes for women, be allowed to affiliate with the Central Women's Society, and should be placed in exactly the same position, both in regard to representation on the Central Council and election to its executive committee, as the properly constituted suffrage societies.

Suffrage or Party Politics?

At a meeting of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, which was called on December 12, 1888, to decide this point, the supporters of the proposal to admit the outside organisations were in a majority. Miss Becker, Mrs. Fawcett, and others who objected to the proposed innovation moved an amendment stating that it would be undesirable to make any change in the rules of the Suffrage society, and on this amendment being defeated they left the hall in a body, whilst their opponents proceeded to draw up rules and regulations in accordance with the new proposals.

On the following day Miss Becker, Mrs. Fawcett, and their supporters met together in the same hall and formed a new suffrage society upon the old basis. Many of those who had been working together in the movement for more than twenty years were now to be found in rival organisations.

In the Parliamentary Session of 1889 there was again no debate on the subject of women's franchise. Mr. Woodall had secured a fair place in the ballot, but had put down the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill for the Wednesday immediately before Good Friday, the day on which the House usually adjourned for the Easter recess. It is difficult to understand the reason for the selection of this day, as there was still one Wednesday left free which (in the words of the *English Women's Review* at the time) "would have given an almost certain opportunity for the Bill to have come on."

Although the date fixed was so near Easter, it was still hoped that the Government would consent to refrain from moving the adjournment until the following day. A memorial calling attention to the fact that women's suffrage had not yet been discussed during that Parliament, and praying that the House should be asked to sit over the date on which Mr. Woodall's Bill was to be discussed, was therefore drawn up, signed by 104 members of Parliament on both sides of the House, and presented to Mr. W. H. Smith (Leader of the House of Commons) on March 29. On the same day, however, a counter memorial not making any specific reference to Women's Suffrage, but pointing out that the 17th was only a private member's day, and asking that the House should adjourn as usual on April 16, which had been signed by 200 members of Parliament, was also presented. This had its effect, for Mr. W. H. Smith stated in reply to the two memorials that, in deference to what he believed to be the general wish of the House, he should move for the holiday adjournment on April 16.

(To be continued.)

THE MATCHLESS CLEANSERS.

By CONSTANCE SMEDLEY.

Does anyone realise the excellent service the Suffragettes are rendering their country in their prison sojourns? There is the first investigation of prison conditions which will have real influence. Prison is the only National Institution on which the opinion of the citizens for whose benefit it is maintained has no weight.

Not that when X2,045 is freed he is generally in a state of mind to care to make his experiences public; the "jail-bird" is not courted by society, and discharged prisoners take trouble to avoid any reference to the conditions which they have been undergoing. Besides, should they complain, the retort of the prison officials is so obvious: "If you don't like it, stay out!"

This reply would probably be echoed by the citizens whose taxes support the nation's prisons. They might very well say: "We don't want you to be comfortable in prison. We prefer the experience to be disagreeable. The worse it is and the less you like it, the emptier prison will be."

Added to this, the slur of prison is so great that we do not really respect the opinions of the men and women who emerge therefrom; and as we who are out of prison never contemplate getting in, we do not regard it as an institution maintained for our personal use, but only as a cage in which the people who annoy us are locked up. Therefore, our criticism of prison management lacks interest.

Letting in the Light.

But now into the whole prison system is coming a flood of light. Numbers of our most energetic, respected, and public-spirited citizens are trooping in. No disgrace is attached to a Suffragette for her experience of prison life. Bands and processions meet her on her release; she is escorted by troops of friends to a "Welcome Home" breakfast; she is the heroine of receptions, and even her relations take a certain pride in talking about her because she has proved her sincerity and strength of purpose, and the popular verdict approves her courage.

But these women who go into prison go in with their eyes keenly alive to the way in which our prisons are being run. They have opportunities such as no inspector has of observing the conduct of the warders, the quality of the food, the civility of the attendants. They notice the conditions under which their fellow-citizens are being incarcerated, and see also the effect those conditions are producing.

The ladies who are going to prison are for the most part unusually intelligent and practical. They are not sentimentalists. They even view the question of prison reform with an eye to future visits. As our country's laws enact that imprisonment must be the lot of those citizens who attempt to obtain a hearing of their case from a Government which does not want to hear it, the Suffragettes anticipate a continued series of these expeditions. They are not going to stop agitating till they get what they want. The red herring of adult suffrage has been drawn across their path without any success at all. Nothing but the Government adoption of a Bill for Women's Suffrage will stop their proceedings.

So, as I say, they turn a practical eye on the management of Holloway, and do not hesitate in the least to publish its defects.

The Suffragettes are on the women's side of prison; they have an opportunity now to know if the present system builds up the self-respect and moral strength of the "weaker sex," and sends the women back to their homes to be better mothers, daughters, sisters, wives.

For the women who are in prison are not always the

scum of their sex. Many of us lose our tempers; deeds may be committed in a hasty moment which break a law and must be punished. Mothers may see their children starving, and be driven to unrighteous courses to provide for them. Wives may sin to aid their husbands; daughters be brought up by their fathers to abet them. Women are held to be the weaker sex; some find the conditions of the working world very difficult to wrestle with, and succumb to its temptations—just as men do.

But they are still women. Modesty and decency are held to be desirable qualities in women; does prison life encourage them? Diligence, courage, initiative are valuable assets in a housewife. Does prison experience help their development? Every man likes his womankind to have self-respect and cheerfulness. Does prison inculcate these?

The nation is entrusted with a great responsibility when it is given the charge of its weaker citizens; the opportunity for their regeneration is placed within its hands. How is it fulfilling its duties?

That is what the Suffragettes are finding out! The women who are fighting for the woman's cause are not influenced by theory; they are making practical inquiry into facts. They are looking at the question from the standpoint of the prisoners. They are realising that it is not helpful to treat women as hopelessly abandoned and unworthy of respect; they see that dignity and independence should be built up, not destroyed, for honesty and diligence accompany such qualities; they feel that modesty and decency should be fostered, not ignored.

In short, when our fellow-citizens are removed from the social system whose rules they have refused to keep, they should still be regarded as fellow-citizens with possibilities which it is the warders' duty to help and strengthen. Prison should be regarded as a cure! A place of industry, where all the qualities which make good citizens should be propagated: a garden of the virtues; a place where people are made whole, not abased and utterly degraded.

Founded on Hate.

The present prison system is founded on hate; its results are seen in the faces of our "jail-birds," in their subsequent careers, in all the horror and shame and hopelessness that cling like a black cloud round the very word "prison." Prison is the revenge of Society upon the weak. There is no love in the idea. Consequently, it is utterly unproductive of any good. It is an enormously costly institution, which acts neither as preventive nor curative.

But hope is coming with the advent of the Suffragettes. They are not citizens who are afraid to speak. They have the courage of their convictions; and these convictions are giving them a lot of it. Prison is no longer a novelty; the first sentimental excitement is wearing off. Each batch will observe more keenly. When they want to confirm impressions, they will break the necessary law and go in and test the condition.

We have found some citizens at last who are not afraid of prison; who feel it their business to let light into every dark spot of the nation; who do not mind what they suffer in the process.

The Suffragette is like the good old-fashioned housewife; she can't bear waste or dirt. The prison system seems to her like a closed cupboard in the national life; she has started spring-cleaning, and the light of day will surely stream in on it.

IN THE AGE OF CHIVALRY.

THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF WOMEN. By F. E. M. MACAULAY.

The frustration by the Tooting men of the London County Council's kindly attempt to provide special trams for women (on account of the injury they received in the daily struggle to get to work) forms the text of a very curious commentary in the leading article of one of the London daily papers. The writer first refers to the lost age of chivalry, and speaks somewhat reproachfully of the number of women in the labour market today; but he does not say how they (and those dependent on their earnings) are to live if they stay at home. He seems to forget that present economic conditions are entirely different from those of the past; that men have encroached on women's work of spinning, weaving, brewing, baking, &c., and forced them to seek for other employment. He condones the conduct of the Tooting men, asserting that, in the age of chivalry, that particular virtue was displayed towards women entirely on account of their weakness and dependence on men, and he considers that, when women gain the franchise, they must not expect to be treated any longer with courtesy and respect by men.

It would be interesting to know what our kinsmen in Australia and New Zealand think of all this; in the meanwhile I propose to prove the utter inaccuracy of the main contention by showing that the age of chivalry, far from being the age of woman's weakness and dependence, was the age of her political and economic equality with man.

British freewomen, in the age of chivalry, if noble women, could and did pay and receive homage; hold courts baron (*with all manner of jurisdiction*); hold land by military service; be knights; hold public offices; be, among other things, sheriffs, governors of royal castles, and Justices of the Peace; present to churches; and, finally, be peeresses in their own right, and liable to be summoned to Parliament in person.

Countywomen, like noblewomen, could inherit freeholds, and, when married, act as "femes soles"; owed military service; paid and received homage; presented to churches; held motes; attended motes; could be free suitors to the County Courts, and there act as Pares or Judges; and could nominate to private boroughs, as did Dame Dorothy Packington, lady and owner of the private borough of Aylesbury, when, in 1572, she chose two members "to be my burgesses of my said town of Aylesbury," signed and sealed their indentures, paid them their wages, and sent them up to the Parliament summoned in that year.

Sex Disqualification Unknown.

But it is the position of the ordinary freewomen which chiefly concerns us. When duly qualified, they were also electors, sex disqualification for the franchise being entirely unknown. Lists of "Freemen who are assessed in the Ward," or "Burgesses who have not yet paid their subsidy," &c., contain, without comment, names of women as well as of men. Frances Hanger, in 1612, pleading that she was a freewoman of London, appealed to the Charter that "the freemen of London should pay no dues upon their wines," and won her case.

Women were also admitted to the various Guilds on the same terms as men, and are expressly named in most of the Charters. They had full and equal rights of becoming apprentices and freemen, of wearing the livery, and of taking, training, and attesting apprentices. Together, "Brethren and Sistren," clad in their distinctive hoods and livery, marched in solemn procession to church to hear Mass on the day of their Guild saint, and dined together afterwards in the banqueting hall at their common feast.

This political equality had far-reaching consequences. The women's sphere of work was unrestricted. In the "Rotuli Hundredorum" are mentioned, among the great wool merchants of London, "Widows of London, who make great trade in wool

and other things." They were members of such "Mysteries" as the Armourers, Tallow Chandlers, Blacksmiths and Spurriers. In 1595, as the Guildhall records inform us, "the office of plumber of London Bridge was granted to the Widow Forster." Women did the brickwork, glaziers' work, ironwork, &c., of various City churches, and Elizabeth Bartlett cast the second bell of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, which weighed over 7 cwt.

Another important result of their political freedom was the fact that they were always paid at the same rate as men for the same work.

Also, when, like the modern women of Tooting, they found the arm of chivalry somewhat unreliable, they could, as a consequence of their enfranchisement, get Acts of Parliament passed for their protection.

In the Law Courts.

Again, it was not only the widows and spinsters who enjoyed this free and independent position. Married women might, if engaged in trade alone, become free. The "White Book" of London declares (1419) that "where a woman covert de Baron (*i.e.*, married) follows any craft within the City by herself apart, with which the husband in no way interferes . . . she shall have her law and other advantages by way of plea, just as a single woman can." One of these advantages, it is worth remembering, was a free choice of her jury. "Where women in cases of debt are impleaded, they can wage their law with men or women at their will."

This, then, was the position of women in that age of chivalry of which we hear so much, and when they regain that position it is only reasonable to suppose that they will also enjoy once more the courtesy and respect that used to be their portion. At any rate, it is safe to prophesy that such incidents as have lately occurred at Tooting will be impossible.

For the information of readers who may not have noticed the news paper reports of the case referred to in the above article, we may state that the facts are as follows:—Tooting, as everyone knows, is one of those popular outlying residential districts where the tramcars, morning and evening, are chronically overcrowded. The women were unable to gain admittance because, in the struggle for places, they were pushed aside by the men.

The state of affairs being represented to the County Council, the decision was made to place on the road some cars for the use of women only. This was done, but the action of a man who boarded one of the trams and refused to leave it nullified the Council's arrangements. This gentleman claimed his right as a citizen and a ratepayer to the use of the car, stating his readiness to pay any fare demanded of him.

On the case being referred to the Commissioner of Police, the citizen and ratepayer gained the day, the decision being that men, equally with women, are entitled to travel on any stage-carriage that plies for hire. And since a tramcar comes under the definition of a stage carriage plying for hire, the decision was that women have no exclusive right to its use.

The *Daily Mail*, commenting on the situation thus created, said in a leading article:—

"Many will think that the women have been hardly used, and that any reproaches against the unchivalrous conduct of the men are justified. But, after all, is there not another point of view? Chivalry was the peculiar virtue of the male sex as displayed to the woman in an age when woman frankly and fully admitted her weakness and her dependency. The chivalrous man sought to screen his womanfolk from contact with the hard outside world, with its bitter competition and its cruel realities. But in the modern world woman is more and more asserting a position of absolute independence of man and of complete equality with him. The assertion of such a claim must radically transform both the status of the woman and man's attitude towards her."

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* For many of the facts in this article I am indebted to Professor Masterman, who, in his recent historical lectures in the gallery of the House of Commons, dwelt at length on the subject; and also to the patient and indefatigable researches of another historian, Mrs. Stopes, to whose two books, "British Freewomen" (2s. 6d.) and "The Sphere of 'Man' in Relation to that of 'Woman' in the Constitution" (6d. net), which are both obtainable from the N.W.S.P.U., I would refer those who wish for further information on the subject.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Questions intended for answer in this column should be addressed to the Editors "Votes for Women," and specially marked "Answers to Correspondents." They must be accompanied by name and address of the sender, and should be questions relating directly to Woman Suffrage or to the policy of the W.S.P.U.

29. *That women can be imprisoned in the twentieth century as men were in the seventeenth and eighteenth, argues something rotten in the State. What does this mean?*

It is certainly an anachronism that in these days anyone—man or woman—should be punished with imprisonment merely because they ask for political freedom, which in the twentieth century is supposed to be an accomplished fact.

30. (1) *Will not the granting of the franchise to women on the present basis mean the swamping of the votes of those women who have property?*

(2) *Will not the granting of the franchise to women on the present basis be followed, say in 10, 20, or 30 years, by the enfranchisement of all adult men and women? Would not such a measure of wholesale enfranchisement mean that working class voters, men and women, will overwhelm all other classes of voters?*

(1) In the case of men voters those of the working class outnumber the rest, and this being so there is no reason why we should hesitate to grant votes to women because among women voters also members of the working class would form the majority. It is undoubted that working women are, on the whole, more handicapped by want of the vote than are propertied women, therefore the latter are not likely to complain because they are in the minority.

(2) It may be that ultimately universal suffrage for both sexes will be established in this country, but that is a matter for future consideration, and the possibility of a future extension of the franchise to all adults ought not to prevent the immediate grant of the existing franchise to women. It should be noticed that if manhood suffrage (excluding women) were carried, the disproportion between the working class and the propertied electorate would be quite as great as if universal suffrage, including both men and women, were established.

31. *Has the opinion of the House of Lords with regard to Women's Suffrage been ascertained at any time? If not, what attitude is it probable they would assume?*

A Woman Suffrage Bill has never yet passed through the House of Commons, and therefore the occasion for ascertaining the opinion of the House of Lords has never arisen. The Lords accepted the Women's Local Government Bill of 1907, and this fact gives rise to the presumption that they will endorse the proposal to grant the Parliamentary vote to women, especially if it comes before them backed by the full influence of the Government. It is largely with a view to increasing the chances of the measure in the Upper House that the W.S.P.U. insist that the Government shall take full responsibility in the matter, and shall not merely adopt a neutral attitude.

32. *In Miss Pankhurst's Political Notes of last week she says that "the Liberal members now in the House of Commons have decided to introduce not a measure simply removing the political disability of sex, but a general Reform Bill dealing with the Parliamentary Franchise as a whole, of which Woman Suffrage is to be only a part." Will she explain exactly what has happened?*

At the beginning of each session of Parliament members have the right of balloting for a day to bring forward the second reading of any Bill in which they may be interested. Those who obtain good places in the ballot choose early days in the session. Up till now a number of the members favourable to Woman Suffrage had agreed, if successful, to use their day for the introduction of a Bill removing the sex disability for the franchise. In 1907 Mr. Dickinson won a good place in the ballot and used it for this measure; in the current year Mr. Stanger did the same.

But on May 20 of this year Mr. Asquith suggested to Liberal Members that Woman Suffrage might be introduced by way of amendment into the general Reform Bill that the Government contemplate introducing before the close of the present Parliament.

As a result of this suggestion, the Liberal Members who advocate Woman Suffrage decided on July 28 to abandon next Session their usual practice of balloting for a day for a Woman Suffrage Bill, and instead to ballot for a day for a general Reform Bill, in which they propose to include a Woman Suffrage clause.

OUR POST BOX.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—Two items occur to me which you may think worthy of note in next week's VOTES FOR WOMEN. (1) While on our holidays we note names and addresses of sympathisers with our movement, and forward these to 4, Clements Inn, to be handed on to the County or District Organiser. Many folks would be only too pleased to become active workers, but they are too shy or diffident to volunteer. Names and addresses of newsagents willing to show contents bills and sell VOTES FOR WOMEN should also be included in such a list.

(2) As the next prisoners will be released on Saturday (22nd), which fortunately falls at the conclusion of the holiday of a large number of teachers, these have a unique opportunity of according the prisoners a welcome and attending the breakfast. Such an opportunity has never occurred before.

Yours, &c.,
FLORENCE M. RUSSELL.
Newquay, Cornwall.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—I arrived in London a couple of months ago with a very poor opinion of the "disgraceful conduct of the Suffragettes," which naturally all people have who do not take the trouble to find out why these "disgraceful" things are done. "Oh!" we say, "we know why these women march along the street shouting, 'Votes for Women,' and why they bombard the 'House.' It is only because they want a vote; but why they take all this trouble to get one we can't imagine." Well, all I can say is that if they went to a few of the meetings which are frequently being held in London, they would soon understand why women take the trouble to fight for a vote. A vote means that the women of England will be on an equal footing with man, because if a woman had the chance to vote she would vote for fair play . . .

I am proud to say I am wearing the badge of the Women's Social and Political Union, and am now a keen Suffragette. I cannot help adding that if every one knew the value of a vote I am sure they would unite their efforts with those of the members of the W.S.P.U. to further the cause.

Yours,
E. SPOUNGER.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—It is now exactly 12 months ago since we had the pleasure of listening to Mrs. Lawrence in the City Temple Hall, and on that occasion it fell to my lot to oppose Mrs. Lawrence from the platform as a member of the Young Men's Conference . . .

Now, here I am, within 12 months, working hard on behalf of the very cause of "Votes for Women!" The change is due to the facts that (1) I have looked more fully into the subject, and am convinced of the rightness of the cause; and (2) to the courage and vigour shown by those active and noble women who are suffering for Liberty's sake.

The message I can give as a Fabian Socialist and a member of the I.L.P. is: Keep up the fight and fight to the end, for you are on the side of Liberty and Truth. Wishing you every success in your endeavours.

Yours,
STANLEY J. DARK.

6, Columbia-road, Hackney-road,
London, N.E.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

SIR,—It may, perhaps, interest you to hear that I was present at the International Constitution Congress at the Franco-British Exhibition on August 7, and that, after papers dealing with the British Constitution had been read by Mr. Gibson Bowles, Professor Dicey, and Professor Flinders Petrie, I asked for leave to speak a few words. I was invited to the platform, and was allowed to point out how—doubtless from sheer force of habit—everyone had spoken of the Government as a representative one. But, of course, that is true only of men, and therefore I asked that in the ensuing discussion, when they used, or heard used, that word "representative" in connection with the English Government, they would just add mentally the phrase "of men." It would emphasise the fact that the Houses of Parliament do not represent women. Nothing could have been kinder or more courteous than the way the Conference received my remarks.

Yours, &c.,
AGNES KELLY.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—As secretary of the committee of the paper, I have to thank the readers who have sent in suggestions for increasing the sale, and would like to bring forward another idea; which is, that on visiting a doctor or a dentist, or any place where there is a public waiting-room, a copy of the paper should be left there. This would draw a great many people's attention to the fact that such a paper exists, and might lead to them ordering future copies from their newsagents.

Yours, &c.,
VERA L. HOLME.

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The National Women's Social & Political Union.

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Telegraphic Address—"WOSPOLU, LONDON." Telephone 5550 Holborn

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The Women's Social and Political Union are asking for votes for women on the same terms as they are possessed by men.

They are not asking for the vote for every woman, but that a woman shall not be refused a vote simply because she is a woman.

The Women's Social and Political Union claim that a simple measure, giving the vote to women on these terms, shall be passed this Session.

SHOULD WOMEN HAVE SPECIAL TRAMCARS?

The divine right of manhood to elbow for itself a seat in the public tramcar on the grand old principle of "each man for himself and the devil take the hindmost" has been vindicated at Tooting. In this case women who cannot, or will not, use their elbows so forcibly as men are the hindmost. "Ha! ha!" say the opponents of the Women's Movement, "there is the equality you Suffragettes are asking for! What do you think of it; how do you like it now that you have got it?"

What do we think of it? We are a little amused at the logic, and a little sad, perhaps, as we realise how much these men-children of ours have yet to learn.

As for the logic, as far as women are concerned, the equalities or the inequalities of our position mean precisely the same thing. By the rule of equality, when men choose to enforce it, or by the rule of inequality, when that rule suits their purpose better, the woman goes to the wall. In the name of equality she is elbowed away from the public tramcars; in the name of inequality she is elbowed away from the better paid professions, and the doors of opportunity are shut in her face. In the name of equality she is called upon to pay the same taxes as men; in the name of inequality she is allowed no voice in the levying or the spending of those taxes. In the name of equality she pays the penalty of disobedience to the law; in the name of inequality the laws to which she must submit are made without her consent, and a special penal code is enacted, making offences committed

by a woman punishable by law when the same offences committed by a man are not punishable.

In the name of equality she is driven into the labour market to work for the support of herself and of those dependent upon her; in the name of inequality she is paid a lower wage than a man for doing the same work. Is it in the name of equality or of inequality that when a woman and a man commit the same sin together she bears alone the burden of shame and the weight of the world's scorn? The word is hardly a matter of consequence. Call it equality or inequality, it works out just the same; it means the woman goes to the wall. If the woman happens to be the weaker, then the rule of equality will do, and she can be elbowed off the tramcar without calling in the outside agency of legal restrictions; if, however, there is any risk of natural equality, then is the law called in to impose conditions of inequality, lest the woman should win. Let the professions be closed to her, deprive her of the weapon of political self-defence, which men have found so essential to maintain their own liberties, restrict and hamper her by special laws which she cannot resist, underpay her, thrust her, if possible, into economic dependence as well as into political subjection! And if she asks for equality, then let men tell her the story of the Tooting tramcar; let them show her what equality means and how much she has to lose by it. And she will laugh.

She will laugh thinking to herself what babies men are, and how they seem to need women at every turn to teach them how to do things properly. Left to themselves, they cannot even run tramcars in a civilised manner. We women should know at once the rational way to settle the difficulty of the Tooting trams. We have solved many a similar problem in the nursery, and have been doing it for ages past.

If there happened to be something in the nursery which all the children wanted to use at the same time we should not let the big girls elbow out the little boys, neither should we allow the boys to elbow out the girls. That is not women's idea of equality. We should see that all the boys and the girls, whether big or little, had their turn, and that everyone played fair to all the others. The County Council could manage to solve the Tooting trams problem quite nicely and easily in that way, and probably if there had been women on the committee to bring a bit of mother wit and common sense into the question, they would have thought of that plan first, and settled the matter to the satisfaction of everybody. Equality! Men's idea of it, upon their own showing, seems to be "the weakest to the wall." Women's idea of equality is "justice and fairplay to all, whether little or big; whether weak or strong." Our men-children are, many of them, still disorderly little savages at heart, in spite of all the lessons in civilisation which we women have taught them. Some day they will learn to know better, and grow to understand the law which stood them in such good stead when they were infants in their mother's arms—that strength must regard itself as trustee for the rights of the small and the weak.

It is well for the race that women have not recognised men's law that the weakest go to the wall. For that is the law of the savage. That is the law against which women in the past rebelled when they laid the foundation-stone of the home, and against which they are to-day in rebellion. We declare war once more against this disintegrating and socially disruptive law, not on our own behalf alone, but on behalf of men also, and on behalf of all that is most worthy of preservation and development in the human community.

Emmeline Pethick Lawrence.

JOINT CABINET RESPONSIBILITY.

"Why do you attack those members of the Cabinet who are in favour of Women's Suffrage?" asked a well-known Liberal woman the other day. "I can understand such action in the case of Mr. Asquith and other avowed opponents, but to harass, as you did at the Peace Meeting, Mr. Lloyd George, who believes in Women's Enfranchisement, is surely a great mistake."

This lady is not alone in her confusion of thought. Many reformers, both men and women, have failed to achieve their object, because, like her, they did not clearly understand the nature and working of the constitutional machine. Among the fallacious ideas arising from ignorance of constitutional matters by which Suffragists have been misled is this one that a distinction ought to be drawn between what are termed our friends in the Cabinet and those other Cabinet Ministers who openly avow their opposition to women's enfranchisement.

Those Suffragists who argue for preferential treatment for these so-called friends show that they have not grasped the all-important constitutional principle that every member of the Cabinet is jointly responsible for the action of the Cabinet as a whole. As Sir William Anson puts it in his work, "The Law and Custom of the Constitution," "The action of the Cabinet is the action of each and every member of the Cabinet. If a member differs from his colleagues, he must resign or else be held responsible for their action. He cannot be allowed to retain office and emolument, and afterwards repudiate the action of those with whom he sat in council."

Lord Morley's View.

Lord Morley of Blackburn is one whose professions of friendship are supposed by some to entitle him to a display of clemency on the part of the militant Suffragists, yet he himself has asserted that "the Cabinet is a unit—a unit as regards the Sovereign, and a unit as regards the Legislature. Its views are laid before the Sovereign and before Parliament as if they were the views of one man. The first mark of the Cabinet as that institution is now understood is unlimited and indivisible responsibility." On his own showing, therefore, Lord Morley, by his membership of a Cabinet which withholds the franchise from women, merits the same opposition as that to which Mr. Asquith himself is subjected.

Mr. Sydney Low, in his book "The Governance of England," lays it down that the burden of joint Ministerial responsibility is the most characteristic of all our constitutional understandings. He further says that it would not now be disputed that a Minister must either be prepared to support a policy which his colleagues endorse, or that he must resign his office.

From all this it follows that to have "friends in the Cabinet" while the Cabinet itself is hostile to woman suffrage is a constitutional impossibility. Mr. Lloyd George and those members of the present Cabinet who, like himself, declare that they believe in woman suffrage cannot therefore claim to be exempt from the pains and penalties which it is the aim of the Suffragettes to inflict upon the members of the Liberal Government until such time as the vote is granted to women.

It is impossible to understand how the impression arose that any members of the Liberal Cabinet are supporters of women's franchise, because, unless driven to speech by the protests which women make at their meetings, they do not give even lip service to the cause.

But if, in spite of evidence to the contrary, these men would genuinely like to see women enfranchised, that does not alter the fact that for them to remain members of the present Cabinet is not consistent with loyalty to the women's cause. Those in the Cabinet who support the enfranchisement of women are faced with the choice between office on the one hand and woman suffrage on the other. The time for making that choice has long since arrived. Before taking the serious step of leaving the Cabinet, Mr. Lloyd George and those of his colleagues who assert themselves to be friends of the woman's cause, would naturally begin by representing to Mr. Asquith and the other avowed opponents that a measure for the enfranchisement of women ought to be introduced and carried into law. Persuasion failing, then resignation from a Cabinet whose policy did not satisfy them became a plain duty. Let us give Mr. Lloyd George and the rest the benefit of the doubt, and assume that they have made earnest attempts to induce the remainder of the Cabinet to deal with this question. Those attempts have failed, as might have been expected, because in a contest of argument it is only possible to set word against word, and opinion against opinion. It is action that carries the day within as well as without the Cabinet. The only action that that section of the Cabinet which desires the enfranchisement of women can take is to resign. The very threat of resignation might avail to move Mr. Asquith, but, if not, then the actual resignation of the Suffragist members of the Cabinet is called for. Thus, and thus alone, can they prove their sincerity and make their friendship effective. Ministers have before now, in defence of less vital principles, dissociated themselves from a policy with which they did not agree by resigning office. They have felt it to be inconsistent with self respect and political honesty to continue to cling to office and by so doing to accept responsibility for action which they thought wrong.

In the future, if not now, it will be recognised that the man who quits the present Cabinet rather than be a party to the political subjection of his countrywomen has chosen the better part.

It will be well for themselves if any of the present Cabinet are wise and strong enough to make this temporary sacrifice of office for the sake of principle. But if all, or any of them, are incapable of such action and prefer to cling to office and let principle go by the board, they must abide by the consequences. They need not think to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. By remaining members of a Cabinet hostile to woman suffrage, they are by every moral and constitutional law equally guilty with the Prime Minister and the others who openly oppose the cause, of denying political liberty to the women of this country.

Christabel Pankhurst.

HOW I PROTESTED AT THE FREE TRADE BANQUET.

By A. K. McLeod.

"It is understood that no ladies of British nationality are to be admitted to the dinner to be given by Mr. Harcourt to the members of the International Peace Conference to-morrow. Foreign ladies will not be excluded. The object, of course, is to prevent a repetition of the Suffragist interruptions that occurred during Mr. Lloyd George's speech at the Queen's Hall on Tuesday."—*The Morning Post*.

Where a Cabinet Minister is, there, if possible, is a Suffragette. I knew, from the daily papers, that no women of British nationality were to be admitted to the dinner given by Mr. Harcourt to the members of the International Peace Conference, but no such condition was made with regard to the banquet given by the Cobden Club to the members of the International Free Trade Congress. So I paid for a ticket, and went.

On my arrival, I was amused to find that women's tickets only admitted to the gallery, and that for their share of the banquet they were to be content to look down upon the well-loaded tables, surrounded by distinguished guests, and to dine themselves off the unpretentious sandwich.

If I had not been in such deadly earnest about the message I had to give when the right moment came, it would have seemed almost a pity to upset the serenity and placid content of the guests.

But I was there for a purpose, and, the anxious moment of inspection of the tickets over ("We have to be so careful," the officials explained, "the Suffragettes are everywhere!"), I occupied the time in conversing with my next neighbour, a Liberal lady with the conventional views on the militant tactics of the Suffragettes. She believed in the vote, but not in the way we are going to work to get it. She was very pleasant and friendly, and I gathered that she had been somewhat bored at a social function, and was glad of a quiet talk.

While dinner was in progress I could not help reflecting that not many miles away there were women behind prison gates—sent there by a Government that refuses them political freedom—who for another five weeks would taste only prison fare, while Cabinet Ministers dine royally and a Home Secretary has "no further answer to make" to inquiries from the Benches of the House of Commons as to the treatment of the Suffragist prisoners.

At last the moment came. Dinner was over, the place was filled with the smoke of choice cigars, and the Prime Minister rose and began his speech. He was evidently enjoying himself, for it was punctuated by the cheers and laughter of the other guests. I let him go on for some time before I used my opportunity.

"Free Trade," he was saying, "is, and will continue to be, to us what in a growing degree it will be found to be in many other countries—an economic necessity . . ." when the full force of that other economic necessity swept over me, and I exclaimed:

"When are you going to make citizens of the tax-paying women of England, Mr. Asquith?"

Of course, I was hurried out. But not before I had seen the look of blank astonishment on the Prime Minister's face, and not before I had time to say, "Votes for Women!" from each of the balconies which the architects would almost seem to have provided specially for the purpose!

There were angry questions as to how I dared to interrupt the Prime Minister's speech, and I noticed how pale and frightened the men were who conducted me to the door.

Outside, the cool night-air was refreshing, and a friendly passer-by offered to call a cab. I don't think I shall forget that evening's experience. I was quite alone, and I found it rather difficult to do as I did. But I am glad to have made my protest.

One thing I cannot forget is the way that Liberal lady with whom I had been talking so long sprang away from me as if I had been a serpent when I uttered my protest!

"Are you one of them?" I heard her say. Then the officials came, and there was no time to answer: "Yes, and I am proud to be one of them!"

N.W.S.P.U. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Released Prisoners.

Miss New and Mrs. Leigh, who were sentenced to two months' imprisonment on July 1, will be released from Holloway on Saturday morning, August 22. Friends are invited to meet them outside the gates of the prison at eight o'clock in the morning. From there brakes will convey them to the Queen's Hall. Brake tickets can be obtained, price 9d. each. It has been arranged to provide them with a complimentary breakfast at Queen's Hall at 9.15. Tickets for the breakfast open to all friends and sympathisers can be obtained from the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C., price 2s. each. After the breakfast, speeches will be delivered by the ex-prisoners and others. Those who are in prison for three months will remain in Holloway until Wednesday, September 16. Arrangements for welcoming them on their release will be announced later.

The "At Homes."

As already announced in this column, no "At Homes" will be held during the month of August, but they will be resumed in September in the Portman Rooms. On September 3, the first of the "At Homes" will be held on Thursday evening, in the Portman Rooms, Dorset-street, from 8 to 10, and a similar "At Home" will be held every Thursday evening, and on September 7 and on each succeeding Monday afternoon "At Homes" will be held in Portman Rooms, Baker-street, from 3 to 5.

During the last three months of the year, the Monday "At Homes" will again be held at Queen's Hall.

The Clifton Downs Demonstration.

At Bristol a special demonstration is being arranged on the Clifton Downs for Saturday, September 19. Miss Annie Kenney is very hard at work, and preparatory meetings are being held every day in some part of the city. Additional workers are much needed, and anyone willing to help should communicate with Miss Annie Kenney without delay.

Albert Hall Meeting.

Arrangements are already being made for the autumn campaign of the National Women's Social and Political Union. A great meeting is to be held in the Albert Hall, on Thursday, October 29. Mrs. Pankhurst will be in the chair, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, and Miss Mary Gawthorpe will address the meeting. Tickets are already on sale:—Amphitheatre stalls, 5s.; arena, 2s. 6d.; balcony and orchestra, 1s.; gallery and upper orchestra (unnumbered), 6d.; and boxes at various prices, can be obtained from the ticket secretary, National W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C. Application should be made early for tickets. Friends who are going away for their summer holidays are recommended to buy tickets before they go away, and are also urged to take tickets with them to sell to those whom they are likely to meet on their holidays.

Photographs of the Hyde Park Demonstration.

At the Hyde Park Demonstration, on Sunday, June 21, one photographer took special photographs of each platform. These have been enlarged, and can be obtained, mounted, at 5s. each. They show very clearly, not only the speakers on the platform, but the dense crowd surrounding it. In ordering, please state the number of the platform which is required.

Newspaper Committee.

A special committee has been formed at 4, Clements Inn, to promote the sale of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

The committee meets every Tuesday at 3 o'clock for the purpose of reporting progress and discussing future plans. Miss Vera Holme is acting as secretary. The work of the committee consists in organising the street sale of the paper by members of the Union; inducing newsagents to stock the paper and show the contents bill; arranging for the sale of the paper at public meetings; carrying out various schemes of advertisement.

Those willing to help the VOTES FOR WOMEN committee are urged to communicate with Miss Vera Holme. Work can be found for ladies who call at the office any morning in the week at 11 o'clock.

PROGRESS OF WOMEN.

A Plucky Swimmer.

Although Miss Lily Smith, the nineteen-year old captain of the Tottenham Ladies' Swimming Club, did not succeed in reaching her goal on Saturday week, she did remarkably well. A simple rule of three sum reveals the fact that if Captain Webb swam twenty miles in eight hours, at the same pace sixteen miles should take six hours and twenty-four minutes. Miss Smith accomplished the sixteen miles in just six hours, and if a contrary wind had not caused the tide to slacken earlier than usual there seems little doubt that she would have broken Captain Webb's record. After relinquishing the hope of entering Ramsgate Harbour, which has baffled the best swimmers, Miss Smith swam for an hour towards Deal.

Training of Women.

A National Conference on the Industrial Training of Women and Girls is to be held in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall on October 6. The Lord Mayor will open the proceedings, and the morning session will be devoted to a discussion on "Trade Training of Girls," and Miss N. Adler, who is doing so much useful work under the L.C.C. in connection with the industrial training of girls, will preside. In the afternoon there will be two sessions—the first (at which Mrs. Ramsay Macdonald will preside) on the subject of "Industrial Training for Unemployed Women Dependent on Their Own Earnings," and the second (under the presidency of the Hon. Mrs. Ernest Franklin) on "The Training of Working Class Girls as Children's Nurses."

Women on Local Bodies.

The Women's Local Government Society convened a meeting recently in order to promote the formation of local organisations for adopting women candidates for town council and other elections. The conference, presided over by Mrs. Theodore Williams, was addressed by Miss Sutton (Town Councillor for Reading) and Mr. Coote, of the National Vigilance Association. It was agreed that wherever possible the candidature should be on strictly non-party lines.

Women's Vote in Finland.

The results of the recent elections in Finland, where women possess the vote, will prove of interest to our readers. The results show that the new Diet will be of practically the same composition as its predecessor. They also show another fact of special interest to students of the women's movement—the number of women absentees from the poll was considerably less than that of the men.

Women and Moral Education.

Women will be well represented at the first International Moral Education Congress, which is to be held at the University of London, September 25-29. The chairman of its executive committee is Mrs. Bryant, D.Sc., Litt.D., who has most ably guided the deliberations, and has taken the keenest interest, more especially in the framing of the programme of papers to be discussed. Among the vice-presidents are Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, Principal of Newnham College, and Mrs. Emma Winkworth, who has done much for the Congress. Women are also to be found among the Government delegates, for Madame Kovalevsky, vice-president of the Russian Women Teachers' Union, represents, with her husband, the Russian Minister of Education. The German Federation of Women Teachers is sending delegates, and many of the papers will be contributed by women.

"A True Englishwoman."

The woman who went to the rescue of a policeman at Edmonton recently was complimented by the chairman, Sir Ralph Littler, at the Middlesex Sessions, as "a true Englishwoman." It was a remarkable thing, he added, that it was usually a woman who went to the rescue of a constable

in a crowd. It will be remembered that the prisoner, Peters, was fighting, and when Constable Buckle interfered Peters kicked him four times before Constable Gilks came to his rescue. A large crowd gathered, and prevented the prisoner's arrest, but Mrs. Osborne forced her way through and blew the whistle of one of the officers, not, however, without being threatened and hustled by the crowd before further assistance came.

Women and Athletic Feats.

Three women, two of them nurses, have been experimenting as divers at Tilbury, where the water is 28 ft. deep. The diving costume weighs 180 lbs., each boot weighing 22 lbs. alone. The helmet is of gun-metal. Miss Ward, the first to go down, saw no reason why women should not take up the work professionally, and stated that, once under water, she was not conscious of the weight of the dress.

The feat of climbing the Black Hill, near Earlston, one of the Eildon Hills, was recently performed by a Border lady of 86 and her two daughters. Black Hill is 1,003 ft. high, and has a very steep ascent. The three women accomplished the climb with comparative ease.

Another record climb is that of Snowdon, which usually takes five hours, and has just been accomplished in three hours by Mrs. Stansfield, with her husband. The climb was undertaken under a scorching sun, and is described by the guide as a record ascent.

Woman Suffrage in America.

The American women are anxious not to lag behind the women of this country. Their latest form of activity has been a demonstration outside the house of President Roosevelt at Oyster Bay, when they were successful in their object of calling attention to their movement. A quantity of literature was distributed, pointing out the need of votes for women in America, especially in connection with the lynching of negroes and the employment of child labour. Mrs. Borrmann Wells, a member of the W.S.P.U., took a prominent part in the proceedings.

A New Profession for Women.

For active, enterprising women with a mechanical turn of mind and a love for an out-of-door life, it seems that there is an opening as motor-drivers. A training department has been organised in London, with the object of proving that a new scope of activity awaits the practical woman who can learn to drive, do ordinary road adjustments, and give instruction in motor mechanism, &c.

The Central Bureau.

We hear from the Central Bureau for Women's Employment that their inquiry office at the Franco-British Exhibition is doing useful work in directing inquirers to the right source of information. The questions asked vary very much, and as an example of the usefulness of the office the case of a young German girl may be cited. She is a stenographer in Stockholm, and, being on a visit in London, went to the Exhibition. Her inquiry related to the conditions of work and payment of women clerks in England as compared with those to which she was accustomed.

Seekers of employment are, of course, passed on to headquarters, 9, Southampton-street, Holborn.

The office is in the Palace of Women's Work, and is apparently fully justifying its existence.

Mohammedan Suffragettes.

An eye-witness of the rejoicings in Salonica over the re-establishment of a constitutional régime says that in the procession young Turkish women "threw up their veils and uncovered their truly beautiful faces," and that he heard a short speech acclaimed *en passant* by an embryo Turkish Suffragette. "These women," he adds, in an article in the *Daily News*, "shout with the crowd in honour of liberty, their native land, their people, and their army. All honour to them!"

MONA CAIRD ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

An interesting letter appeared in *The Times* of Tuesday, August 11, from the pen of Mrs. Mona Caird demolishing the arguments against Women's Suffrage. In the course of it she says:—

The old argument of physical force ("ultimately responsible," it is urged, "for the conduct of the State") could only reach *terra firma* if a franchise should be established obliging candidates to prove their right to a vote by successful prize-fighting or other muscular feats. Or (as an improvement on this crude method) each polling booth might be provided with an automatic boxing machine, at once testing and registering the force of the candidate's biceps. This institution, indeed, would shortly banish the representative system altogether.

At present these very rigid forms of unnatural selection have not been adopted, men of inferior strength, invalids, and cripples being permitted to vote without question, nobody then pointing out that the "State ultimately rests on physical force." In fact, the very existence of the civilised State implies that some factor other than physical force has taken the place of that primitive ultimatum. The force that a Government employs is organised and used in the interests of right as distinct from might. In proportion as it departs from that ideal it is admittedly corrupt and decadent. It is precisely in order to defeat the tyranny of mere muscle that law and government exist at all. That, indeed, is what distinguishes the civilised from the frankly savage.

In conferring a distinction or a post of honour, a civilised State does not ask, "Can this man lift a horse and cart lightly with one hand?" or "How many scalps has he in his front hall?" This criterion is now considered out of date. Why should it be dragged out of deserved obscurity as soon as it becomes a question of admitting women to political existence?

In an illuminating concluding paragraph Mrs. Mona Caird says:—

The woman's movement is an effort to remove disabilities, not to dictate views. It seeks to bestow freedom, not to curtail it. No woman need vote if she disapproves of voting. The measure is permissive, not compulsory. That the refusal of the vote to women does place them in a politically subject position is impossible to deny, and subjection, however disguised or softened by civilised manners and surroundings, is full of evils and insidious dangers for the masters as well as the subjects. To begin with, the two groups in such relationships are prevented from full mutual understanding, and, therefore, from true companionship, and that in itself means tragedy, while the wholesale dedication of millions of women to one "sphere"—in the narrowest sense of this fate-laden word—prevents large numbers from finding their true vocations and from using their best powers. This is the cause of infinite suffering, mental and physical, as anyone who knows something of the inner side of women's lives can testify. And all this rebounds on men. Perhaps in no case does Hegel's famous saying hold truer than in this—"The master is never really free till he has liberated his slave."

THE SUFFRAGIST PRISONERS.

Earl Russell, on July 29, asked His Majesty's Government whether the women agitating for the vote, who were arrested on June 30, were prosecuted before Mr. Francis under section 2 of the Prevention of Crimes Amendment Act, 1885; whether the *maximum* penalty on conviction under that Act was a fine of £5, or imprisonment for two months in default; whether, in fact, a certain number of those prosecuted were not convicted under such Act, but were ordered to find sureties to be of good behaviour, and were, in default, imprisoned for three months; and what legal authority existed for requiring sureties for good behaviour of these defendants and for dealing with them in the manner indicated. He said the magistrate, professing to act under a section which said he had to regard the nature of the offence as trivial, and to consider it inexpedient to inflict any punishment, or any punishment other than a nominal one, nevertheless, gave three months' imprisonment to people who would only have been liable, if they had been thought not worthy of leniency, to a penalty of £5, or two months' imprisonment. He ventured to think that Act had been strained.

Earl Beauchamp said he thought the Probation of Offenders' Act had nothing to do with the action of the magistrate, and, therefore, the noble earl's argument founded upon that Act fell to the ground. He was bound to say that he thought

that the steps which he had taken had met with the approbation of the people of this country. (Hear, hear.)

Earl Russell further asked whether the women imprisoned in connection with the recent disturbances on June 30 were not political offenders within the rule laid down in *re Castioni*, and why their treatment in prison was more severe than that usually awarded to political offenders; and whether His Majesty's Government seriously contended that there was any legal obstacle to the exercise of the Royal prerogative of mercy in these cases.

Earl Beauchamp said that the decision of the Court in *re Castioni* had no reference to offences committed in the United Kingdom. His Majesty's Government did not contend that there was an absolute legal obstacle to the exercise of the prerogative of mercy, but where Parliament had expressly given to the magistrates the discretion of deciding in which division prisoners were to be placed, the opinion of the Government was that it would be unconstitutional to use the power of the Crown to override that discretion. He thought he might say in this case, as in the previous one, that the magistrates had interpreted the wish of the people of this country, and that they were entirely satisfied with the decisions given.

Permission was granted to Mrs. Drummond and two other members of the N.W.S.P.U. to visit Miss Vera Wentworth at Holloway last week. They found her in good health and spirits, and as determined as ever to bear her long term of imprisonment cheerfully. Miss Wentworth, it will be remembered, was committed for three months, the date of her release being September 16. Her one question was, "How is the movement getting on outside?" and on being told of the protest at Queen's Hall, she said, "I wish I could be outside and in too."

THE COMRADES' SONG.

Women of this happier day
Sing a comrades' song together,
As they take the great highway
Under clear or cloudy weather.

All their past is like a dream,
Fading in the mists of morning,
Or a sombre, cloistered stream
Full of storm and dark with warning.

Signs of warning change and pass,
Freer life brings wider channels,
And to-day's fair hour-glass
Marks in light its gliding annals.

Comrades marching side by side,
Feeling one deep soul elation,
Mother, sister, maid and bride,
Vanguards of a nobler nation.

Speed them on oh Saxon race!
Stop the scorn and still the vaunting!
They will take their destined place
In despite of shallow taunting.

They will gain the victory,
Scale at last life's highest mountain—
Win their perfect destiny,
Drink from freedom's snow-fed fountain.

Onward, comrades—raise the song,
We will clear this shadowed valley;
We are marching millions strong
For our last victorious rally.

H. DORANT.

MEMBERS' PLEDGE CARD.

WOMEN in all parts of the country who are not as yet definitely enrolled as members of the National Women's Social and Political Union are invited to sign the members' pledge card, which they can obtain from the offices, 4, Clements Inn, and apply for membership. The pledge is as follows:—

I endorse the objects and methods of the Women's Social and Political Union, and I hereby undertake not to support the candidate of any political party at Parliamentary elections until women have obtained the Parliamentary vote.

There is an entrance fee of 1s. No definite subscription is fixed, as it is known that all members will give to the full extent of their ability to further the campaign funds of the Union.

MY CONVERSION.

"Won't you do this for me?" The sensitive, appealing voice sank to silence as for the third time I slowly shook my head.

There was so much I wanted to do, so many other interests in my life—the "movement" with my friends was unpopular—there would be their opposition and ridicule to face. "No, there are plenty of other people who will help you," I said, at last, "I really cannot."

The earnest face of the Pleader grew sad, and I tried to avoid the eyes which looked so reproachfully into mine as she turned away.

All day long, as I went about, those reproachful eyes haunted me. The vivid interest in my usual pursuits had vanished, and in its place a vague feeling of unrest prevailed. The warm breeze played fitfully with my papers, as I sat beside the open window endeavouring to write. "There are neglected women and children," its voice said, and it was strangely like an echo of the Pleader's voice whom I had refused to help. "There is poverty and suffering—there is oppression, and injustice, and sin, and vice to fight," it went on.

I turned impatiently away. I would go out. The daylight was fading as I turned my steps towards the outskirts of the city. I will go where it is quiet and get back my peace of mind, I thought, as I strolled along, but before I realised it, I was on the fringe of a small, but growing crowd, and above the heads of the throng saw the swaying form of the Pleader, and once again, in spite of myself, her voice compelled me to stay and listen.

"Oh, if there are any women of ease and wealth in the crowd to-night," the voice was saying, "I ask you to try and realise your sins of omission."

"You who are living shielded lives in the midst of plenty, is it nothing to you, that many who are your sisters toil the hours of daylight through, that they, and often their children, may not starve? Is it nothing to you, you mothers of happy, healthy children, that others are born and bred in the haunts of vice and crime?"

"What can you do, you ask. Why, come over to us, and help us by offering of your wealth and personal services. Help us to get by the weight of your influence the power to demand better conditions for women, and, consequently, for the coming generations."

"What good, you ask, is the vote to these women if they get it? Well, friends, you might as well say, what good is the use of a vote to a man, or what good is the use of a sword to a soldier. Why, not even the most careless amongst us would send a soldier out to fight without a weapon, and with tied hands. Yet this is the condition of these women who have to fight the hardest battle of all—the battle of life. A man's vote is his weapon of self-defence against oppression and misrepresentation, a woman's vote would be the same for her."

"When she gets it will she use it, you ask. What do you think yourselves, my friends? Saw you ever a soldier who chose to fight weaponless? Still, you in the crowd who doubt it and think that women need no means of defence, give up one afternoon of calls and pleasures, and come with me and see the lives and listen to the voices of the women themselves on the subject, and I venture to say that when you return it will be with a different opinion, and I can promise you, too, that having laid aside for awhile your ease and pleasures, and stepped alongside your sisters in distress, with love in your hearts for them, and understanding in your minds for them, when you go back to your old life it will be with hearts and minds enriched by the contact, and your whole lives deepened and widened. It is you who will be the gainers."

"It will not be easy, you say. What of your friends' opposition? What of the world's ridicule? What of the censure of the fashionable crowd? Well, and what of them all, my friends? Is what your neighbour thinks more to you than the salvation of women body and soul? Surely, no! Come, then, understand us, be our friends, and help us, sisters, wives, mothers, there is work for you all, and the Voice of Love incarnate from out the past ages bids you 'Bear ye one another's burdens,' and 'Love ye one another even as I have loved you.' Dare we refuse to obey?"—Here the voice broke and ceased—and I, obeying the newly waked self within, went

alongside the Pleader. "I will do what you asked," I said. "Thank you, come to me to-morrow," was all she said, but I knew that she understood.

I went—and since have learned through her what manner of women they are who are fighting in the forefront of the Woman's Movement. Ridicule and jeers and insults they have faced and risen above. They have laid aside all their natural abhorrence of all these things, and borne with dignity for woman's sake the indignities which the vulgar and ignorant have chosen to heap upon them—much as the early Christians bore the indignities meted out to them by their haters and oppressors. They have taken courage through love, and faced for women time after time physical danger and all the horrors of prison life.

As for me, my debt to the voice which awoke me to fuller, freer life, I can never repay.

As I finish writing, a new dawn breaks, flushing the grey-ness with its rosy light. Surely this is an omen that the new era of light is about to dawn wherein the daughters of our beloved motherland shall be made "free to serve."

ANNIE M. PRESTON.



Anty Drudge Entertains the Sewing Circle.

Mrs. Dornie—"I declare, Anty Drudge, your table linen is whiter than snow. You must put something in your wash besides elbow grease. Our maid rubs until her knuckles bleed, and then her white clothes look yellowish."

Anty Drudge—"I don't even use elbow grease. Don't even boil the clothes. And they last twice as long. I use Fels-Naptha and lukewarm water. No boiling, little rubbing, and done in half the time."

It is quite certain that no woman would deliberately make any part of her work twice as hard and take twice as long as is necessary.

Yet that is practically what the woman is doing who clings to the old-fashioned, wash-boiler, hard-rubbing way of washing clothes.

Of course, she doesn't do it knowingly. It's because she doesn't know Fels-Naptha soap.

Fels-Naptha can do all the hard work—can get the dirt out of the clothes without any boiling, without any hard rubbing, and in half the time.

Why not let Fels-Naptha do it?

Fels - Naptha

will do it. Isn't it worth trying?

WEST OF ENGLAND CAMPAIGN.

Shop and Committee Room: 33, Queen Road (opposite Art Gallery), Clifton. Open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

We are making headway with our work in Bristol. The shop is a great source of attraction, and customers are increasing. After our meetings, usually on the following day, we get many visitors, who tell us where they were converted, and take our literature away with them.

Last Tuesday we had over 2,000 people on the Broad Quay; on Wednesday we held a meeting on the Downs for the ladies and the nurses; we expected about 200 people; we had about 800. Men came from every part to listen, and the women were there in great numbers. We have decided to hold a meeting every Wednesday afternoon in the same place (Blackboy Hill) at 3.30. In the evening we went to Westbury. We had an excellent meeting; everyone listened very attentively to all the speakers, and before we left the crowd was most enthusiastic.

On Thursday we held the usual meeting on the Downs. The audience was tremendous, and all were anxious to hear; save for about 20 educated hooligans we had warm support. After the meeting was over we stayed until 10.30, answering questions and putting our case before a few who had not been able to hear.

Visits to Outlying Districts.

On Friday we went to Fishponds, a part of the constituency for which Mr. Birrell sits, which made it additionally interesting, and on Saturday to Portishead, a little seaside place a few miles from Bristol. When we arrived at the time appointed for the meeting the streets were lined with waiting crowds. Miss Adela Pankhurst and Miss Williamson spoke. It was a treat to stand and watch the delightful change that came over the faces of the audience; and the approving nods from the majority of the women proved that they saw and felt what the movement really means.

It was a great pleasure to watch the women's faces; they felt that there were some people fighting and working for them, in order to make life easier and brighter, and more worth the living.

At all our meetings we took a collection and sold literature. We are making VOTES FOR WOMEN widely known.

"At Homes."

On Monday afternoon we again start our weekly "At Homes"; and we are holding an "At Home" every Friday from 8 o'clock to 9.30 in the Hannah More Hall. This is to give the teachers, nurses, and other women in professions and trades a chance of hearing about our movement, and to make them eager to help. The cards for the Victoria Rooms "At Home," on September 21, two days after the Durdham Downs Demonstration, will be ready by the time this report is in print. Any readers or friends who would like cards for themselves or for friends should apply to me as early as possible, as when people know that our Leader, Mrs. Pankhurst, will be the speaker, the demand is sure to be great.

Letters may be sent to 78, Alma-road, Clifton, Bristol, my private address.

The big meeting to be held on November 20, in Colston Hall, Bristol, must also be kept in mind. Tickets will be 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d.

The Durdham Downs Demonstration on September 19 is the first great feature on the programme for the West of England. I must thank all who are helping me through this paper. Seven of us have been at work, and it is so much easier when so many are sharing in it. Miss Lillian Williamson and, perhaps, Miss Dodd will have to leave next Saturday. Now I want people to fill their places. Workers are needed for the first two weeks in September, because all the holiday people will be back, and lots of advertising must be done by personal labour. Will any one who can give one or two weeks in September write to me as early as possible?

I also want to make a strong appeal for money. I have to raise £8 for the Victoria Rooms. The Colston Hall will cost me over £50.

There is a great deal to do in order to make the 19th a success, so I do want money, do I not? This week I have sent the Treasurer £2, £1 from Col. Blathwayt, Bath, towards advertising; and £1 from Miss E. Grenfell Hill, London; then £1 7s. in collection. I feel sure that people will help me to raise the money to carry on the work in the West of England successfully. I am anxious for the sake of the movement we all think more of than life itself that September 19 and 21 and November 20 should prove a great success, and be further great proofs of the demand for Votes for Women from the people of the West Country. Nothing can bring about success but hard work, and money to help in advertising in order to reach the people untouched by the meetings.

Wanted!

Many are the things I want at the present time! More workers, more members, and more money. When I ask for more workers I cannot help thinking how illogical some of our Members of Parliament are. They say our place is the home, and, at the same time, they tell us to leave the home and prove to them by constant agitation on the part of the women that women want the vote. But, still, would any of us be without the experience of the last three years? It is most beautiful to see the true comradeship, the loyalty, the devotion that this movement has brought about between women. Women! come and join us. Then you will begin to realise what are the things that matter in life. I shall be glad to hear of any one who would like to help us in any way to make our work a great success.

ANNIE KENNEY.

LOCAL NOTES.

Brighton and Hove W.S.P.U.—On Friday evening those members who had not left Brighton had the pleasure of meeting Miss Lamb and Miss Home at an informal drawing-room gathering. Miss Turner took the chair, and Miss Home gave an interesting account of the prisoners' release from Holloway, and the breakfast. Miss Lamb, in giving advice about preparations for the October meeting, interpolated a graphic description of the "mouse meeting" at Nottingham, and then went on to tell about various by-elections. The members present were keenly interested, and felt it was extremely kind of Miss Lamb and Miss Home to give up time in this way during their holidays.

Barnes W.S.P.U.—At the weekly public meeting held on Wednesday, August 5, at Barnes-green, Miss Evelyn Sharp gave an admirable address on Sweated Industries, showing how better conditions would prevail if women had the Parliamentary as well as the municipal vote. Her audience was most attentive and appreciative, and at the close a well-known and highly respected Barnes lady gave a donation for the free distribution of literature on the Suffrage.

S. A. WILSON HORN.

London City W.S.P.U.—Our meeting on Hampstead Heath on Sunday was a splendid success. Dr. Rose, Miss Higgins, Miss Winifred Auld, and I all spoke, and we kept a huge crowd of quiet and interested people standing contentedly from half-past five till nearly half-past eight! We sold 65 copies of the paper. We had many requests to come again, and were pleased to see so many familiar faces in the crowd—some of the men wearing ties of our ribbon. We shall have another meeting on Sunday, 23rd.

JESSIE KENNEY.

Lewisham W.S.P.U.—Miss Macaulay was our speaker on Sunday on Blackheath. She was very eloquent and impressive. A lady in the audience contributed handsomely to the collection, wishing that she could have given more. Both Miss Macaulay and I spoke of Miss New's and Mrs. Leigh's release on August 22, urging the people to turn up in large numbers on Sunday, August 23, and give Miss New, of whom the Lewisham Union is justly proud, a hearty welcome after the ordeal she has been through for the sake of our great cause. "VOTES FOR WOMEN" and literature were sold. Next Sunday Miss Winifred Auld will speak on Blackheath at 5.30 p.m. Good news has reached me from our members, the Misses Townsend, who are doing splendid propaganda work in Devonshire, where they are staying for a holiday. They hired a small hall, and held a most successful meeting "for women only," to which, on urgent request, a few privileged members of the opposite sex were admitted.

J. A. BOUVIER.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

Up to August 29 (as far as at present arranged).

Aug. 13	Clifton, Durdham Downs, Blackboy Hill	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Lillian Williamson, B.A., Miss Mill-cent Brown, Miss Clara Codd	7.30 p.m.
	Cobden Statue	Miss Higgins, Miss Jessie Kenney	7.30 p.m.
Fri. 14	Bristol, Broad Quay, Tramway Centre	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Lillian Williamson, B.A., Miss Mill-cent Brown, Miss Clara Codd	7.30 p.m.
Sat. 15	Liverpool, Wellington Column	Mrs. Hillier, Mrs. Morrissey	8 p.m.
	Bath, Eagle House, Bathaston Garden Party, by Mrs. and Miss Blathwayt	Miss Adela Pankhurst, Miss Dorothy Pethick	4-6
Sun. 16	Boulter's Lock, Maidenhead	Miss Higgins, and others	12 noon
Mon. 17	Clifton, Hannah More Hall, "At Home"	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Lillian Williamson, B.A., Miss Mill-cent Brown, Miss Clara Codd	4-6.30
Tues. 18	Lancashire, Bacup	Mrs. Baines, and others	7.30 p.m.
	Bristol, Factory Gates	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick	12.30-1.30
	Liverpool, Picton Clock	Mrs. Myer, Miss Ross	8 p.m.
	Lancashire, Waterfoot	Mrs. Baines, and others	7.30 p.m.
Wed. 19	Clifton, Durdham Downs, Blackboy Hill	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Lillian Williamson, B.A.	3.30 p.m.
	Bristol, St. George's Park	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Mill-cent Brown	7.30 p.m.
	Lancashire, Ramsbottom	Mrs. Baines, and others	7.30 p.m.
Thur. 20	Clifton, Durdham Downs, Blackboy Hill	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick, Miss Clara Codd	7.30 p.m.
	Lancashire, Stubbins	Mrs. Baines	7.30 p.m.
Fri. 21	Bristol, Broad Quay, Tramway Centre	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Lillian Williamson, B.A., Miss Clara Codd	7.30 p.m.
	Liverpool, Wellington Column	Miss Marks, Miss Broughton	8 p.m.
	Clifton, Hannah More Hall, "At Home"	..	8-9.30
Sat. 22	Lancashire, Ewood Bridge	Mrs. Baines	7.30 p.m.
	Holloway	Release of Prisoners	8 a.m.
	Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W.	Complimentary Breakfast (Tickets 2s.)	9.15 a.m.
	Weston-super-Mare Sands	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick, Miss Mill-cent Brown	3.30-7.30
Sun. 23	London, Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead	Dr. Rose, Miss Winifred Auld, and others	6 p.m.
Mon. 24	Clifton, Hannah More Hall, "At Home"	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Lillian Williamson, B.A.	4-6.30
	Lancashire, Rawtenstall	Mrs. Baines	7.30 p.m.
Tues. 25	Bristol, Factory Gates	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Mill-cent Brown	12.30-1.30
	Liverpool, Picton Clock	Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Forson	8 p.m.
	Lancashire, Haslington	Mrs. Baines, and others	7.30 p.m.
Wed. 26	Bristol, Eastville Park	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Lillian Williamson, B.A.	7.30 p.m.
	Lancashire, Bury	Mrs. Baines, and others	7.30 p.m.
Thur. 27	Clifton, Durdham Downs, Blackboy Hill	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick, Miss Clara Codd	7.30 p.m.
	Lancashire, Accrington	Mrs. Baines, and others	7.30 p.m.
Fri. 28	Bristol, Broad Quay, Tramway Centre	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Lillian Williamson, B.A.	7.30 p.m.
	Liverpool, Wellington Column (close of Summer Campaign)	Mrs. Hillier, Mrs. Morrissey, and others	8 p.m.
	Clifton, Hannah More Hall, "At Home"	..	8-9.30
Sat. 29	Lancashire, Haxenden	Mrs. Baines, and others	7.30 p.m.
	Yatton	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Mill-cent Brown, and others	7.30 p.m.

IMPORTANT FUTURE EVENTS.

Bristol, Clifton Downs (Demonstration) Sept. 19
London, Albert Hall (Meeting) Oct. 29

At the monthly meeting of the Burton and District United Trades Council last Friday, a circular from the Woolwich Trades Council re the imprisonment of the Suffragettes was read, and eventually a resolution submitted was, after amendment, agreed to as follows:— That this Council enters a strong protest against the treatment of the women who are imprisoned for acts committed during their struggle for the enfranchisement of women, and calls on his Majesty's Government to bring the women so imprisoned under the category of first-class misdemeanants.

Women and the Prevention of Crime.

At the instigation of Mr. Keir Hardie the new Bill for the Prevention of Crimes has been amended so as to allow women as well as men to sit on the Boards which are to be appointed under the Bill.

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Ladies' Materials made up in January and September.

Forest Gate W.S.P.U.—At our meeting on Clapham Common on Sunday afternoon we drew a big crowd. Members of the audience kept a few troublesome lads in order, so that the speakers—Mrs. Baldock, Mrs. Bartlett, and Miss N. Smith—had an excellent hearing. Daisy Offord, one of our recently released prisoners, helped us by selling VOTES FOR WOMEN and taking a collection.

Huddersfield W.S.P.U.—We had a good open-air campaign at Lockwood on Tuesday night. It had been well advertised by chalking and by our local members, who work this quarter well. There were about 500 people present: they listened with great interest, first to Miss Annie Higgins, who took the chair and introduced me to the audience as a working woman. We told them of the success achieved by the women who already had the vote in some of the colonies, and explained the methods we are using to obtain it in the Mother Country. We urged the need of unity among the women. Already we feel we have the sympathy of the thinking men, many of whom seem quite prepared to sink party politics until women get their rights. The collection defrayed expenses. As this is the first meeting held in Lockwood we are looking for great things.

LOUIE SWALES.

Last Sunday evening a capital meeting was held in Battersea Park. Some of the people present declared the meeting to be the best and most orderly yet held in the park. Mrs. Bartlett took the chair, and the chief speaker, Mrs. Baldock, was listened to with the closest attention for upwards of an hour.

Will all women interested in the Votes for Women movement in Ilford, Romford, Hornchurch, Upminster, and Harold Wood district please communicate with Mrs. Ames, Wing Edge, Parkstone-avenue, Hornchurch, with a view to forming a local W.S.P.U. to help in the work of the above districts?

A meeting was held on Denholme Edge on Sunday afternoon, August 9, when the chair was taken by Miss M. Glyde, of Keighley, and Miss Hartland and Miss Newton, of Bradford, were the speakers. An unexpectedly large audience was waiting for the speakers. This was the first visit of the Suffragettes to Denholme, and the people were very much interested. All VOTES FOR WOMEN were sold and many more were wanted. Other literature sold well, and there was a good collection.

"Will every Suffragist, when at her draper's, remember to buy a Card of Smart's Invisible Hooks & Eyes.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £20,000 FUND.

August 5 to August 11.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
• Already acknowledged	15,871 19 4	Miss N. E. Smith	2 0 0
Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Pethick		Miss K. Walshe	0 10 0
Lawrence	200 0 0	Mrs. S. Etherington	0 5 0
Mrs. E. Cullerne (By-election)	0 10 0	Miss Brewer	0 1 6
Mrs. A. K. McLeod (By-election)	1 0 0	Miss Riorden	0 4 0
Miss D. L. Meihé	1 1 0	Mrs. Mary Parr (collected)	1 3 6
Per Miss D. Spong (profit on meeting at Muswell Hill)	3 4 6	Mrs. Mona Caird	3 0 0
Miss C. H. Sidney Woolf	0 2 6	Col. Blathwayt	1 0 0
Mrs. M. C. Bernard	0 5 0	Miss C. Maud	5 0 0
Mrs. B. Brewster	1 13 0	Mrs. Nesbitt	0 10 6
Miss E. Bartlett	0 3 0	Miss G. A. Brackenbury (By-election)	1 0 0
Mrs. M. E. Culme Seymour (By-election)	1 1 0	Miss Herne	0 10 0
Mr. Coles	0 2 6	Miss Rothera	0 5 6
Miss M. Morris	0 5 0	Mrs. Evans	0 2 6
Miss E. Grenfell Hill	1 0 0	Miss E. Burgis	0 10 0
Mrs. Crosby Smith	1 0 0	Miss Richardson	0 10 0
Mrs. J. Brindley	1 0 0	— Sibson, Esq.	0 1 0
Mrs. F. Clement	0 5 0	Miss Violet Martin	1 1 0
Anon	0 5 0	Mrs. E. Renton Esler	0 10 0
Miss E. M. Dobbs	0 13 0	Miss A. M. Goodliffe	0 2 6
Miss J. McLeod	0 1 0	"Answers"	2 2 0
Miss E. Sanders	1 1 0	Miss Maude	0 2 6
		Membership Postage Fees	2 1 0
		Collections, &c.	24 17 4
		Total	£16,134 1 8

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