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Votes for Women

Report

. . . OF THE . . .

Women's Freedom  
League

FOR THE YEAR 1912

and of the

EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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# Women's Freedom League.

## LIST OF OFFICERS.

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*Head of Political and Militant Department :*

MISS C. NINA BOYLE.

*General Secretary :*

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## CONSTITUTION.

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OBJECTS.—To secure for women the Parliamentary Vote as it is or may be granted to men ; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

METHODS.—The objects of the League shall be promoted by :—

1. Action entirely independent of all political parties.
2. Opposition to whatever Government is in power until such time as the Franchise is granted.
3. Participation in Parliamentary elections ; at Bye-elections in opposition to the Government candidate on lines sanctioned by the Annual or a Special Conference.
4. Vigorous agitation upon lines justified by the position of out-lawry to which women are at present condemned.
5. Education of public opinion by all the usual methods, such as public meetings, demonstrations, debates, distribution of literature, newspaper correspondence, and deputations to public representatives and other bodies and their members.

MEMBERSHIP.—To be open to Women who approve the objects and methods of the League, who are prepared to act independently of party, who undertake to give precedence to the work of the Women's Freedom League, who approve, though they need not actually participate in, the militant work of the League, which, however, does not include plans to injure persons or to attack private property, and who pay a yearly subscription, the minimum subscription being one shilling.

ASSOCIATESHIP.—To be open to Women and Men who approve the objects and general work of the League, and who pay a yearly subscription. Associates to have no voting power.

COMMITTEE AND OFFICIALS.—(1) The National Executive Committee shall consist of a President, Treasurer, and 12 members to be elected by the Annual Conference, the Committee to have power to appoint its General Secretary (who shall be paid if necessary) and heads of departments.

The National Executive Committee to meet once a month for the transaction of business ; and the final power of the League to be vested in the Annual Conference, to which branches shall send their delegates, one delegate representing from 12 to 50 members.

Report of the  
EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE,  
March, 1913.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Women's Freedom League was held in the Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, March 29th. Mrs. Despard, the President, was in the chair, and there were present delegates from the following Branches:—

*England.*—Aintree, Brighton and Hove, Burnage, Chester, Eccles, Grays, Ipswich, Letchworth, Manchester Central, Middlesbrough, Portsmouth, Sheffield, South Shields, West Hartlepool.

*Scotland.*—Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Rothesay, Scottish Scattered Members.

*Wales.*—Cardiff, Montgomery Boroughs, Swansea.

*London.*—Anerley, Clapham, Croydon, Finchley, Hackney, Hampstead, Harrow, Highbury, Kensington, Mid-London, Northern Heights, Tottenham, West Hampstead.

All members of the retiring National Executive Committee were present, but it was decided at a meeting of the Conference delegates that the names of those elected to the new Committee should remain secret.

The Reports of the Honorary Treasurer, the Secretary, the Head of the Political and Militant Department, and the Honorary Head of the Press Department were adopted, also Reports of the Literature and Vote Sales Departments.

The following were the principal resolutions carried:—

1. That the policy of the Women's Freedom League remain anti-Government.
2. That this Conference demands the immediate introduction of a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women on the same terms as men.
3. That we continue our policy of tax resistance and defiance of the law, taking care to make it clear to the public that we attack laws made without our consent, instead of attacking property, whether Government or private.
4. That, while keeping as its first object the obtaining of the political franchise for women, the Women's Freedom League feels that the time has come to work consciously for their economic emancipation.

5. That this Conference is of opinion that, one of the objects for which we desire the vote being to improve the conditions of women workers, the Women's Freedom League should, if possible, use women's industrial disputes as a means of Suffrage propaganda.
6. That every member of the Women's Freedom League be urged to take in at least one copy of *The Vote* a week.
7. That the Branches be visited regularly in circuit by organizers or members of the National Executive Committee.
8. That it would be advisable in the interests of the League to form sub-committees at Headquarters (not necessarily composed only of members of the National Executive Committee) to carry on the work of the League; and in this way to interest a greater number of members. Such sub-committees might well include a social committee, a general purposes committee, and a literature committee.
9. That the Agenda Committee be asked to appoint Standing Orders Committee, Scrutineers, and Tellers prior to the meeting of the Conference, to avoid all possible waste of time.

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President's Address.

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IN the name of the National Executive Committee—to whom, at our Special Conference of the last year, you entrusted the conduct of the business of our League—and in my own name I bid welcome to the delegates from our Branches. I hope that this, our Eighth General Conference, will be profitable to ourselves as a League and useful to the great Woman's Movement to which we belong.

Presently you will receive Reports from our different departments. I believe you will feel that, between this Conference and the last, some valuable work has been done. In the meantime, as is our custom on these occasions, I wish to say a few words about the political events of the year as they have affected Women, about the present outlook, about the Policy of the League, and the particular part that it is taking in the battle which women everywhere are waging for political and economic freedom.

**POLITICAL EVENTS.**—I must briefly remind you that, at our last General Conference, held in January, 1912, we were looking forward to the fulfilment of a double pledge made by Mr. Asquith. As regarded the Conciliation Bill, he promised that he would give a free hand to the members of his party, and that, if the Bill passed its second reading, facilities would be given for its further consideration. And since his undertaking to bring in a Government measure, which would mean practically Adult Suffrage for men, would prevent the Conciliation Bill

from having a fair chance, he gave a further pledge. The new Reform Bill, he promised, should be so drafted as to be open to an amendment that would include women, and in this case also he would not only leave the members of his party free to vote as they pleased, but he would also make any amendment the House might pass an integral part of the Government Bill.

It is needless for me to go into the story of the disgraceful trick which was played upon us, as I cannot help feeling, by the Speaker and the House of Commons, for it is fresh in your minds. The memory of that base betrayal can never die. You know also what we did. It was decided at Headquarters to appeal from the House of Commons to the men and women of London, and, through them, to supporters of the Woman's Movement and lovers of justice all over the world.

Let me remind you that, while holding to the principle of militancy without violence or the destruction of property, we abstained from active militancy up to the moment when the pledges made to us by the Head of the Government had been actually broken. Further, let me say that we have never looked at militancy as an end, rather as a means to an end.

In the ridiculously futile King's Speech, with which the present Parliamentary Session opened, the women of the country have been ignored. While, as we know, the authorities are racking their brains to devise some means of effectively dealing with militancy, they refuse to recognize publicly, and as a matter of national import, that the women of this country have grievances which, demanding immediate redress, are really responsible for the militant form our agitation has taken.

I would call your attention to the fact that while woman as a deeply concerned factor in the national life is kept outside the national councils, measures that affect her life and the lives of her children are being constantly passed. The Insurance Act has come into force this year. Very different would it be had the women of the country been given a direct voice in its formation.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act, while dealing with the outer fringe of the great Evil, which men-legislators profess themselves as desirous of curing, leaves its deeper issues entirely untouched. Its result already is that the evil continues more subtly.

One of the projected pieces of Legislation concerns Education. Men have made many blunders in their efforts to deal alone with this momentous subject. None of us would pretend to say that women may not also make mistakes. But when it is a question of the training of our children, we claim naturally that, with our knowledge, experience, and intention to enlighten men-politicians, there will be a much better prospect of reaching some satisfactory solution of the tremendous problems with which those who would fairly and wisely direct national Education are faced

We hear that in the near future land is to be dealt with in some drastic fashion. It ought to be unnecessary to point out to our rulers that here also the interests of women are profoundly concerned. It is my own hope that women generally will soon see what a few women have seen already, that there is, and must always be, a close relation between Mother Earth and the Mothers of the Race.

It is difficult to make any forecast of the future, for even within the inner circle of the Liberal Party there are wide divergences of opinion. The official section offers us a Private Member's Bill. We of the Women's Freedom League and the other great Suffrage societies reject that offer, not only with contempt, but with indignation. But what then? The curious attempts at a possible solution that are being put forward in various directions show the perplexity of the governing powers. *The Nation*, that has thrown out a suggestion of sectional representation—a sort of local option—seems to have some fear that if nothing definite is done the Government will break. The writer says, "That will break the women." I do not agree with him. I cannot, however, see at the moment any chance of a Government defeat; the Home Rulers and those keen for Welsh Disestablishment will do their level best to keep Mr. Asquith in power until their measures are safe. Something unforeseen may happen. This has often been in politics. Meantime, so far as an immediate solution goes, there seems no very hopeful prospect.

I turn from the political situation to that of our own League, and now I find abundant room for hope, even for satisfaction. There can be no doubt that during the past eleven months we have grown in number and effectiveness, adding, as you will hear, new Branches to the League, and having others in the course of formation. That some of them are drawn undeniably from the ranks of women workers and from the wives of men workers is a fact which gives me, and which, I am sure, will give you, great pleasure.

More and more the democratic basis of our society is being recognized. We have also achieved the further and, I think, more difficult task of having our position recognized and, more or less, understood by the public. We are militant; but we abstain from violence. We have broken the laws which men have made: we are breaking them daily—in Tax Resistance, and in refusing to have anything to do with the Insurance Act. It is true, in fact, to say that we are up against Law, which accepts woman as drudge, slave, idol, or idiot, but does not give her citizen rights.

As the present Government, headed by Mr. Asquith, continues obdurate, our policy is still anti-Government. I think, if you have carefully followed out the activities of the Women's Freedom League during the past year you will see that this is true. Further, you will, I think, acknowledge that, taking into consideration the force and resources at our disposal, we have had some measure of success in our efforts to make our anti-Government policy felt.

Now let me speak of one of our methods which has been and is, perhaps, by some of you somewhat misunderstood. In January of last year the political and militant policy of the League was left, com-

paratively speaking, vague. At the special Conference, in view of the final collapse of the Conciliation Bill, our policy was reconsidered, and the anti-Government method was more clearly defined. It was also decided that the Branches should be consulted as to one of the forms through which this policy might be worked. It was agreed then, by a large majority of our Branches, that candidates standing in the Labour interest in three-cornered contests should be supported by us, wherever it was advisable. This policy, as you will hear from the Head of our Political and Militant Department, has been carried out.

It is unnecessary for me to do more than lightly touch upon the internal difficulties, which formed one of the reasons for our special Conference last year. I am grateful personally for the confidence given to me by the League, and I am more than happy to be able to report that those whom you elected temporarily on that occasion, and whose election was afterwards ratified by the Branches—my colleagues and I—have worked together harmoniously.

I believe that this spirit of harmony has been felt throughout the League. Our task has not been easy, for the greater number of those to whom then you entrusted your business were untried. But we pulled ourselves together and did our best. One feature of our work which gives us peculiar satisfaction is the drawing together of the Branches of the League in a closer union than, I think, has ever existed before. We have many evidences of the fact that our members throughout the country appreciate our efforts to bring them into touch with what is being done at Headquarters. Many more monthly reports have been sent in to us. We hope that this will continue to be done. Headquarters—which all our Branches help to support—should be as the central hearth-fire—the home to which members everywhere can turn, and from which they can draw the help and inspiration they may need.

Finally, let me impress upon you the deep importance of your task. We are here, you and I and the National Executive Committee members, as the trusted representatives of a great body of women all over the country, who look to us to translate their enthusiasm into service and to organize their activities. We need thought, wisdom, calmness, and with these that earnest goodwill within our own League and outside its borders which I am sure you are bringing into your task.

Given such a basis, your criticisms will be just, your conclusions will be sound; and we shall succeed in making our Conference what it should be—a means of strengthening and helping all the members of our League.

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## HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT.

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THE year 1912 shows an improvement upon 1911. The League has received more money, done a great amount of work, and spent less.

Much of the money has come in as a result of special appeals for special work. Thus £500 has been sent us specially for Political work :

roughly, half of it in March, and the other half in October. Again, the President's Birthday Fund brought in £600. This fund roused great interest and enthusiasm: our Branches, members, and friends welcomed the opportunity of showing their appreciation of their President while supporting the Cause.

I feel sure the Conference will support me in making this an annual event, and by starting this year immediately after the Annual Conference and Easter holidays, I have no doubt that we shall succeed in reaching the £1,000 at which we aimed.

The International Suffrage Fair was a great financial success, resulting in a net profit to the League of £357; for this gratifying result we must give Mrs. Harvey our warmest thanks.

The Branches are becoming a steadily increasing source of financial strength to the League. This year nearly one-fifth of our whole income has been contributed in one way and another by the Branches; this includes £200 of the Birthday Fund and the proportion of the profits of the "Fair" which was due to the exertions of the Branches.

We have had some increased expenses during the year—By-elections have been numerous; we took part in 13, at an average cost of £9 apiece.

The special Conference, which proved necessary in April, took about £60.

It only remains for me to record grateful thanks to Mrs. Huntsman, both for the idea of the Birthday Fund and for undertaking to appeal for funds at our meetings, and to thank all my colleagues for unflinching kindness.

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT.

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At the Conference, January 29th, 1912, it was decided that the next Annual Meeting should be held in March, 1913.

The members elected to the National Executive Committee in January, 1912, were: *President*, Mrs. Despard; *Honorary Treasurer*, Miss Tite; Miss Andrews, Miss Clark, Mrs. Coates Hansen, Mrs. Drysdale, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Munro, Miss Neilans, Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. Vulliamy, while Miss Jack, Miss Murray, and Miss Husband were elected to serve alternately; but as this Committee only held office until April 28th, 1912, this Report must be divided into two parts, one dealing with the work of the Committee until April 28th, and the other with the work of the Committee appointed April 28th until the present time.

From January 28th until April 26th, 6 meetings of the Committee were held. On January 29th Mrs. How Martyn was asked to accept the Headship of the Political and Militant Department, Mrs. Mitchell the Headship of the Literature Department, Mrs. Harvey the Headship of the Press Department, and the Secretary's appointment was confirmed by the Committee.

At the meeting of the Committee, March 29th, a letter was received from Mrs. How Martyn, resigning from the Headship of the Political and Militant Department owing to ill-health, and this resignation was accepted by the Committee with deep regret at its following meeting, April 19th.

On March 29th, immediately after the defeat of the Conciliation Bill, the Committee unanimously decided to call the Special Conference which met at Caxton Hall, April 28th and 29th, and at this Special Conference a resolution was passed that members of the Committee should stand for re-election.

During this time one group (Thatcham) and two branches (Burname and Aintree) were formed.

Early in March Mr. Agg-Gardner was congratulated by the Committee on his success in balloting for the Conciliation Bill; and after its defeat Miss Boyle, at the invitation of our Cheltenham Branch, represented the Women's Freedom League at a joint Suffrage meeting held at Cheltenham to thank him for his efforts on behalf of Woman Suffrage.

In March our Dundee Branch was specially thanked for succeeding in getting a pronouncement from Mr. Churchill in regard to Woman Suffrage.

During these few months Miss Boyle worked in the secretarial department, rendering invaluable assistance, and spoke at various meetings in London, Swansea, &c.

At the Special Conference, April 29th, Mrs. Despard was again elected President and Dr. E. Knight was elected Honorary Treasurer, and a Provisional Committee to carry on the work of the League was appointed as follows: Miss Andrews, Miss Boyle, Miss Clark, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Huntsman, Miss Munro, Miss Murray, Miss Jack, Miss Husband, Mrs. Mustard, Miss Neal, Miss Heyes, Mrs. Schofield Coates, Mrs. Snow, and Mrs. Tippett. They were confirmed in office by the Branches June 29th.

This Committee met 12 times during its term of office. At its first meeting it confirmed the Secretary in her office, and offered the Headship of the Political and Militant Department to Miss Boyle. Miss Boyle preferred to act for a time merely as Political Organizer responsible to the Committee, and in October became Head of the Political and Militant Department.

Mrs. Harvey again accepted the appointment of Honorary Head of Press Department.

Mrs. Huntsman became Honorary Head of *The Vote* Sales Department. Subsequently Mrs. Julia Wood most kindly took over this work.

In June Miss Emily Hunt was appointed by the Committee Assistant Secretary to the League.

About 500 new members have joined the League during the past nine months, and 8 new Branches and Groups have been formed: Rothesay, Grays, Waverton, Bournemouth, Letchworth, Richmond, Gravesend, and Nine Elms.

*Branches and Places visited by Mrs. Despard*: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Rothesay, Grays, Gravesend, Bournemouth, Helsby, Manchester, Letchworth, Cardiff, Richmond, Clapham, Croydon, Kensington, Northern Heights, Poplar, Ipswich.

*Miss Munro visited the following Branches and Places*: Glasgow, Rothesay, Edinburgh, Clyde Coast Campaign, Chester, Dundee, East Fife, Clapham, Kensington, Poplar, Harringay, Croydon, Cheltenham, Grays.

*Miss Andrews* had charge of the Caravan in Saffron Walden, Bishop Stortford, Sawbridgeworth, Hertford, Stevenage, Letchworth, Royston, Linton, Haverhill, Hitchin, Ipswich, Stalham, Saxmundham, Caister, Yarmouth, Cromer, and Lowestoft. She also visited Grays, Cardiff, Aberdare, Barry, Swansea, Cheltenham, Hanley, Crewe, Richmond, Ipswich, Chester, Helsby, Liverpool, Poplar, Herne Hill, and after the Houghton-le-Spring Election Campaign left Miss Trott to carry on work in Sunderland.

The tasks of Miss Munro and Miss Andrews have been exceptionally heavy. Until October they were the only Organizers available to send up and down the country to visit our Branches and to take on work outside our Branches.

*Miss Gibson* worked in Bournemouth, Letchworth, Gravesend, and Glasgow.

### London Work.

Mrs. Huntsman is the Honorary Organizer for the London Branches' Council, and helps very substantially any and every effort undertaken by our London Branches. She shows a special genius, too, in the organization of Poster Parades round the House of Commons, in Regent Street, in the West End, and other parts of London.

*Social Activities in London*: Mrs. Snow and Mrs. Fisher have had charge of these, and to them is due the credit of our very successful Public Receptions.

Mrs. Mustard has given valuable help by speaking at both indoor and outdoor meetings and debates.

Mrs. Tanner has undertaken successful Open-Air Campaigns in several London suburbs. She also represented the Women's Freedom League at the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers held at Oxford, where she was exceedingly successful in introducing a speech on Woman Suffrage; and she also represented the Women's Freedom League at the special Conference then called to consider the advisability of passing a Woman Suffrage resolution.

Mrs. Nevinson has rendered yeoman service both at indoor and outdoor meetings in London. She also undertook a very successful tour for us, holding meetings at Cheltenham, Aberdare, Cardiff, and Swansea. Her pen, too, has been placed at our service.

Mrs. Russell has for the last three months worked regularly in the Office for five days a week, and has cheerfully lightened the work of every member of our Office staff during that time.

To Mrs. Hyde, Mrs. Edith Smith, and Miss Berkeley Smith Headquarters is deeply indebted for much regular help.

In Manchester much work has been done by Miss Neal and Miss Heyes.

Miss A. M. Clark, known to the League as champion *Vote* seller, undertook a fortnight's campaign in Eastbourne in July, and a very successful campaign at Merthyr on the occasion of the Labour Conference, getting up a good reception and meeting there for Mrs. Despard, incidentally selling several hundred copies of *The Vote*. Miss Clark has also run another campaign for the Women's Freedom League this Easter at Weston-super-Mare during the National Union of Teachers' Conference.

### Scottish Work.

The send-off which our Edinburgh Branch gave to the Women Marchers is known the wide world over. Mr. Winston Churchill cannot be in better hands than those of Miss Husband and our other members in Dundee. Miss Murray is continuously addressing meetings in Scotland, as well as in various parts of England.

### International Suffrage Fair.

The greatest social achievement of the year was the International Suffrage Fair, held at Chelsea Town Hall in November. To our friend, Mrs. Harvey, belongs its initiation and splendid organization. In the short time at their disposal our Branches co-operated magnificently to make this Fair a success. Not only did we make a substantial profit for the League, but the League itself gained world-wide renown. The Committee felt, when it was all over, that it could not sufficiently express its gratitude to Mrs. Harvey for her arduous work for the Women's Freedom League, nor give adequate praise for the wonderful way in which she had organized this Fair.

### Press Cuttings.

The classification and filing of all Press Cuttings concerning Woman Suffrage, another valuable piece of work, has been undertaken by Miss Mary Anderson.

### "At Homes" Given by Mrs. Ronald Macallister.

In April, May, and June last year Mrs. Macallister gave a series of delightful "At Homes" at her house in Mount Street, Berkeley Square. These were well attended and highly appreciated by members of the Women's Freedom League.

### Open-Air Meetings in London.

Open-air meetings were held each Sunday in Hyde Park from April to October by the Mid-London Branch, in Victoria Park by the Hackney Branch, and in Brockwell Park by the Herne Hill and Norwood Branch.

During the summer 10 London Branches were holding regular week-evening meetings in and around London. These were successively arranged by Mrs. Merivale Mayer, Mrs. Bigger, and Miss Anson.

### London Branches' Council.

Thanks are due to the London Branches' Council for the generous and cordial way in which it has co-operated with Headquarters in London work—work which could not have been undertaken without the splendid personal assistance and monetary help freely given by the Council.

### Men Supporters.

Mr. Housman has spoken for us on several occasions this year in London and elsewhere. Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., Mr. D. M. Mason, M.P., Mr. H. D. Harben, Mr. George Lansbury, Mr. John Scurr, Mr. W. H. Dickinson, M.P., Mr. Baillie Weaver, Mr. Cameron Grant, Dr. G. B. Clark, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Dr. Drysdale, Sir John Cockburn, Lord Lytton, Mr. Simpson, and others have also spoken from our platform.

### Organizers.

In October Miss Gibson was appointed as an Organizer for the League, and after working for some time in London, proceeded to Bournemouth, Letchworth, and Gravesend, in each of which places she was successful in establishing a Branch of the Women's Freedom League. For the last two months Miss Gibson has been in Scotland, and will now, we hope, work again in England.

Miss Trott, who has done good work in her own district, being responsible for the formation of our Waverton Group, was appointed as Organizer at the beginning of this month. She began work at once with Miss Andrews at the Houghton-le-Spring election, and has since been working in Sunderland.



Miss Sidley volunteered to help us temporarily when we were very much rushed with work, and took over completely the organization of our reception to released prisoners, and has since accepted the position of Assistant to the Head of the Political and Militant Department.

### Work Done by Headquarters in London.

Five meetings have been held in Trafalgar Square.

Twenty-six Wednesday afternoon public meetings arranged at Caxton Hall.

Vote Soirée, Doré Gallery, April 18th.

John Stuart Mill Meeting, Caxton Hall, May 20th.

Joint Demonstration with Women's Social and Political Union in Gladstone Park, June.

Joint Suffrage Demonstration, Hyde Park, July 14th.

Reception to members of International Suffrage Alliance Congress, October 28th.

Reception to Women Marchers in Chelsea Town Hall, November 16th.

Protest meetings at Caxton Hall on withdrawal of Franchise Bill, January 27th.

Eastbourne Joint Meeting with Men's League, February 8th.

Reception to Released Prisoners, February 10th.

Mr. Snow and Mr. Simpson sent as representatives to the International Suffrage Alliance Congress in London.

Lectures at Caxton Hall in aid of *The Vote*, March.

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## POLITICAL AND MILITANT REPORT.

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### Bye-Elections.

A special feature of this year undoubtedly was its wealth of bye-elections, many of which came closely crowded on top of each other entailing a great strain on the resources of Headquarters, and affecting the arrangements of other work and workers by the demand for speakers and assistance. I have to acknowledge most gratefully the support received from branches and branch members—in the use of quarters, in hospitality given, in the enthusiastic assistance given by members—on very many of these occasions.

The elections conducted under the former Executive were East Edinburgh, in charge of Miss Alison Neilans, assisted by Miss Gibson and the Edinburgh Branch; and South Manchester, with Miss Munro and the Manchester and district branches.

Your present Political and Militant Department took the St. Rollax Division, Glasgow, being supported by the Glasgow Branch, who helped to reduce substantially Mr. Wood's majority; South Hackney, where assistance was given by Mrs. Merivale Mayer. Mrs. Huntsman, Miss Rolls, Mrs. Catmur, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Biggar, and the Men's League, Mrs. Despard also coming for a special meeting, the result being a greatly reduced Liberal majority; Holmfirth, where the Sheffield and Huddersfield members gave great assistance, and where the major part of the heavy work devolved on Mrs. Merivale Mayer; Ilkeston, where I worked single-handed, and where the huge reduction in Colonel Seely's majority was, beyond dispute, due to the Suffrage campaign; Hanley, where Miss Underwood, Mrs. Wolf Myers, Miss Andrews, Mrs. Merivale Mayer, and Mrs. Pedley (of the local branch) supported me: Mrs. Despard also came down for a special meeting: Crewe, where Miss Andrews was left in charge with the assistance of Mrs. Merivale Mayer and Mrs. Clark; North-West Manchester, where Mrs. Merivale Mayer and I were helped by local members, and the Government candidate was defeated; East Carmarthen, organized by Mrs. Sproson under tremendous difficulties, where a splendid reception awaited us in all directions from the colliers and village folk; Mid-Lothian, where I once more secured the support of Mrs. Sproson, who put in most valuable and courageous work, whilst Miss Jack, Miss McLachlan, and other members of the Edinburgh Branch gave every moment of their spare time to the fight: result, defeat of Government candidate by Conservative supporter of the Conciliation Bill; Bow and Bromley, where Mr. Lansbury suffered a glorious defeat, and where Mrs. Huntsman and I were nobly supported by almost the entire Hackney and Harrow Branches, the speakers including Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Clarkson Swann, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Hyde, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Merivale Mayer, Miss Gibson, and Mrs. Nourse; Bolton, at which Mrs. Sproson and Miss Gibson gave an excellent account of themselves and the Women's Freedom League, in spite of the very limited measure of time at their disposal; and Houghton-le-Spring, where Miss Andrews, with the assistance of Miss Trott and the support of the Sunderland Branch, carried out a most original protest, painting out the name of the candidate on the nomination paper exposed in the Town Hall, and thereby rendering the election void if the rules laid down for it have any meaning.

### Policy.

The absence of any definite ruling from the January Conference of 1912 as to a policy to be pursued should the Conciliation Bill fail, made a Special Conference necessary, and it was decided to revert to the anti-Government policy formerly pursued by the League. Subsequently a suggestion, originally formulated by Mr. Brailsford, but modified to suit the point of view of your League, was agreed to by a majority of the Branches. Mr. Brailsford's idea was to give unqualified support and financial assistance to the Labour Party, and this was adopted by another society; the Women's Freedom League, however, preferred to maintain the anti-Government attitude, merely deciding, as a practical extension of that policy, to support a candidate in the Labour interest wherever such a candidate was fighting the Liberal—that is to say, at three-cornered elections—not so much with a view to securing

the return of a Labour candidate, as in the hope of splitting the Liberal vote and keeping the Liberal out. This policy was pursued at Holmfirth, Hanley, Crewe, East Carmarthen, Mid-Lothian, and Houghton-le-Spring; in not one case has the Labour candidate secured return.

### Conciliation Bill.

A very great amount of work in lobbying members of Parliament for the Conciliation Bill was carried out, a number of members doing valuable work in this way. On the defeat of Mr. Agg-Gardner's measure a meeting of protest was held in Essex Hall, where Mrs. Despard first foreshadowed the possibility of a policy of boycott. On March 28th a further meeting was held in the same hall. Both were crowded.

### Reform Bill.

In regard to the Reform Bill a resolution gave the National Executive Committee a free hand in respect of militant action pending the introduction of that measure; and it was generally felt that it would be best to refrain from all aggressive militancy until the fate of the amendments became known, while keeping on Resistance to Taxation and inaugurating Resistance to the Insurance Act. The announcement that the measure was to be rushed through during that session, so as to secure the benefits of the Parliament Act, confirmed the Executive in this attitude.

Meetings of protest were held on the introduction of the Bill, and when the amendments were coming on, a series of most spirited poster parades round the House of Commons was organized by Mrs. Huntsman, with special posters suitable to the occasion. These parades created an excellent impression, and were splendidly supported by members.

On the decision of the Speaker becoming known, your President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Head of Political and Militant Department attended promptly at the House of Commons with a letter to the Prime Minister, whose private secretary came out with much display of courtesy to express that gentleman's regret and consternation at the episode; another letter was handed in for the Speaker. This correspondence was widely published in the Press, and evoked favourable comment.

### Militant Protests.

A public meeting, arranged at the Caxton Hall for the night of that discussion, was largely attended, filling two rooms. Evading the hordes of police outside, Mrs. Despard, accompanied by Dr. Knight, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Tippett, Mrs. Hyde, Miss Andrews, Mrs. Huntsman, Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. Owen, Miss Boyle, and Mrs. Kux, made their way in taxi-cabs to Trafalgar Square, and held a series of meetings, heralded by bell-ringers, in defiance of the law which forbids meetings to be held in Trafalgar Square when Parliament is sitting. The police massed round the House of Commons were unable to cope with the result, which ended in some 10,000 people crowding into the Square, the great majority of whom were sympathetic, and who followed the interrupted

speakers about calling for "Speech, Speech!" Mrs. Despard was arrested on the steps of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, where a dense crowd gathered; Dr. Knight accompanied her to Bow Street, and was then charged; Mrs. Tippett and Mr. Simpson were also arrested and taken to Cannon Row. Their sentences of a fortnight and one week respectively led to a series of Protest Meetings outside Holloway. The arrangements for this successful protest were planned and carried out by Mrs. Harvey.

The next militant protest was the posting of Proclamations defying the Law. This was carried out in London and by nearly all the branches, special reports on the subject being received from Scotland, Brighton, Chester, Cheltenham, Hadleigh, Hitchin, Letchworth, Swansea, Manchester, Middlesbrough, and Harrow. A number of members were arrested in London, but discharged without further proceedings. In Cheltenham three members were summonsed and fines imposed. No imprisonment followed their non-payment. Miss Munro went down to take charge of the proceedings, she herself, with her companion, being summonsed for her share in this work at Bromley. In all, seven summonses were issued, several of which the police have not yet been able to serve.

### Reception to Prisoners.

A reception organized for the prisoners, on February 15th, at Caxton Hall, was a great success. Mrs. Despard, Miss Murray, and Mr. Simpson were the speakers, Miss Cicely Hamilton presiding, and presenting bouquets on behalf of the League to the released prisoners.

### Tax Resistance.

The Women's Freedom League, as instructed by the Conference, is resisting the Insurance Act, and will not insure its employees. Several official calls have been made at the Office.

Miss Buntin has twice been a protester, once on a dog-tax at the time of the St. Rollax election, and again at the time of the Women's March to London, her goods being seized and sold during her absence on the March. Miss Hare of Hove put up a similar protest, as did Mrs. Cunningham of Hayes, Dr. Patch, Mrs. Sutcliffe, and Mrs. Sargant Florence. Dr. Knight was awarded seven days, at the close of last year, on behalf of a dog; and the resistance carried out jointly by her and Mrs. Lane at Woodbridge has become an annual event in the neighbourhood. Mrs. Tippett's protest against dog-tax was a great success; and to Miss Anderson's determination in the same cause we owe the formation of a branch at Woldingham. She is once more preparing to resist. Mrs. Despard, Miss Clark, and Miss Neal continue to go free year after year, and must be classed as non-taxpaying women; and forthcoming events of this nature are the protests of Miss Cicely Hamilton, Miss Helen Smith, Miss Woodall, Mrs. Howroyd, and another Chester member; Mrs. Doughty of Burnage, and Mrs. Gerlach of Hove.

Mrs. Harvey's house, barricaded for five months, was the centre of great excitement in an anti-Suffrage stronghold, and the meeting at

which her goods were sold was a great triumph. Avowedly hostile, it became friendly and almost enthusiastic. During the continuance of the barricade a number of meetings were held in Bromley Market Square, where the local Antis mustered in great strength. Mrs. Harvey was also sentenced and distrained on for nonpayment of tax on man-servant.

The Glasgow Branch is resisting the Insurance Act, and is, like Headquarters, awaiting the action of the Government.

### Joint Action.

In accordance with the instructions of the Conference, joint action and joint counsel with other societies have been taken whenever possible. There are, however, many difficulties in the path of a militant society when seeking such co-operation.

I represented your League in a deputation organized by the Actresses' Franchise League to Mr. Ramsay Macdonald on the subject of his utterance at the Albert Hall. Miss Winifred Mayo introduced the deputation, and Mr. Macdonald gave a long time to the discussion. The interview was not considered satisfactory.

Your League may, I think, congratulate itself on the pleasant and friendly relations which exist between it and the kindred societies, with most of whom the Women's Freedom League maintains the kindest associations, and with none of whom has it created friction or feud.

### London County Council Elections.

A special Committee was formed to elicit the views of the candidates for London County Council elections, and Dr. Knight, with Mrs. Spiller and Mrs. Carey as Joint Secretaries, put a huge piece of work in hand. There were 238 candidates, and of these a number plainly stated their views, and 68 agreed to receive deputations. Every one of these was interviewed, a number of members coming to the assistance of Headquarters in carrying out this onerous task.

### Law Courts.

Following on the refusal to admit women to the Recorder's Court, correspondence passed between your League and the Lord Chancellor, the Recorder, the Common Serjeant, and the Judges of the King's Bench. Of the latter, only Mr. Justice Ridley, out of 10 or 12 judges, condescended to acknowledge receipt of the communication. The matter was also taken to the Home Secretary, and the result has been a decided victory, as "the Commissioners of the criminal courts," we are informed, "have decided that for the future a reasonable number of women are to be admitted to suffrage trials."

### Deputations.

On the defeat of the Conciliation Bill your former Executive arranged deputations to Cabinet Ministers, only three of whom agreed to receive them. Of these, Lord Beauchamp was courteous and sympathetic, Mr. Hobhouse was grossly impolite, and the third, I believe, was strictly non-committal.

On the withdrawal of the Franchise Bill, simultaneously with the Trafalgar Square demonstration, several Cabinet Ministers were visited by impromptu deputations. Miss Munro and Mrs. Higgins interviewed Mr. McKinnon Wood. Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Watson secured Sir Rufus Isaacs on his doorstep; but Mrs. Nourse and Miss Gibson found that Mr. Buxton was leaving the shelter of a music-hall to take cover in the country, and that his house was being shut up and his luggage sent to the station without his coming home at all.

On the withdrawal of the Franchise Bill, and on receipt of a stern request from your League, Mr. McKenna agreed to receive a deputation not exceeding six in number. The members were Mrs. Despard, Dr. Knight, Miss Murray, Miss Munro, and Miss Boyle, Mrs. Huntsman introducing the deputation. Mrs. Despard dealt chiefly with the injustices towards the poor in the administration of the law, and demanded on their behalf that, as there were prosecutors at the public expense to conduct cases against the public, there should be also counsel at the public expense to defend those who could not afford this outlay. There was good reason to believe that this suggestion would receive sympathetic consideration. The lack of religious provision for other than Church of England prisoners was dwelt on; and Dr. Knight, in pressing for first division treatment for all Suffragist offenders, men or women, pointed out the vagueness of "Rule 243A," and proved Mr. McKenna to be wrong when he asserted that it was "perfectly definite." Miss Murray, Miss Munro, and Miss Boyle dealt with other objectionable features of police-court procedure; and a great impression was made by the account of a woman doctor at the Chester Assizes, who had had to give painful medical evidence in a case of criminal assault on a child of under 15 in the Stezall Cottage Homes, and who was then, with the Matron of the Homes—the child's guardian—turned out of the Court with other women, the child being left alone with men. More, the defending Counsel, protested against the unfairness to his client in having medical evidence of this nature given by a woman whom he could not cross-examine as he would a man. Mr. McKenna admitted that this was a serious matter, and that it involved a grave injustice to the child assaulted and to professional women subjected to such hindrances in their work. He also said he "would have everything thrown open to you ladies"—an odd expression considering his attitude on the Vote. Another admission was that "the criminal law was never intended for people like you"; and on the whole the Women's Freedom League had good reason to be satisfied with the deputation, which was as good a piece of work as had ever been carried out.

## LITERATURE REPORT.

WE began the year with a capital of £40 1s. 11d., which has been gradually increasing until, on December 31st, we reached the total of £76 0s. 7d., very nearly double the amount.

The annual turnover has been £385 16s. 8d., an increase on last year of £47 9s. 1d., which gives a net profit of £26 11s. 10d. For the first time this department is beginning to pay its way and to make a small profit.

A number of Irish Societies have taken a stock of our Literature, and are selling it very well.

### The "Cameo" Life Sketches.

This series seems to be as eagerly sought after as ever. The tenth edition of 'Josephine Butler' (15,000 in all) has just been published. 'Florence Nightingale' is in its fourth edition, and 'Elizabeth Fry' and 'Lydia Becker' are both in their third editions. The next addition to this series will be 'Frances Mary Buss,' which is now being compiled by Mrs. Marion Holmes.

The Danish Women's Suffrage Society has asked and received permission to publish the "Cameo" Series in its own language. Permission has also been given to incorporate 'The Colonial Statesmen' in a book containing articles by well-known Suffragists in Cape Colony. Literature was sent out to a debate on Women's Suffrage in Mexico.

At the International Suffrage Fair in November great success was achieved at the Literature Stall. Literature from all countries and all Societies was for sale. A great many Authors' signed copies were presented. Christmas Cards, Crackers, Postcards, Calendars, Pictures, the International Cookery Book, Badges, Brooches, &c., were also for sale. The net profits of this stall amounted to £23 14s. 5d.

### New Books Published by the Women's Freedom League During 1912.

'Sex War and Woman Suffrage,' by Laurence Housman.

'Woman under the Insurance Act,' by W. G. Earengy, B.A., LL.D. (Lond.).

'Lydia Becker,' a Cameo Life-Sketch, by Marion Holmes.

'Woman and Evolution,' by Lady Sybil Smith.

'Five Years' Struggle for Freedom,' by Margaret Wynne Nevinsor, LL.A.

Reprint of 'The A.B.C. of Votes for Women,' by Marion Holmes.

Reprint of 'The Economic Aspect of the Women's Suffrage Movement,' by R. J. Campbell.

Reprint of 'The Immoral Effects of Ignorance in Sex Relations,' by Laurence Housman.

## REPORT OF THE PRESS DEPARTMENT.

THE aim of this Department is to spread the knowledge of the work of the Women's Freedom League by means of our organ *The Vote*, and to gain as much information as possible concerning the Woman Movement in foreign countries, the Colonies, &c. That this work increased during the past year was proved by the International Suffrage Fair, in which every Branch of the League took part.

## 'VOTE' REPORT.

THE Sales of *The Vote* are steadily increasing. We now have practically no returns from the Branches. Also, since we took over our own publishing in February, 1912, the number of trade returns has been considerably reduced.

With the aid of the Merchandise and the Printing Departments the loss on *The Vote* has been diminished by one-third.

From April 6th we shall still further lessen the loss, as our printers are renewing their contract with us at a reduced figure.

We frequently receive very substantial aid from Miss A. M. Clark, who sells large numbers of the paper—from 600 to 1,000 copies of a single issue. Mrs. Despard, Miss Anderson, Miss Fennings, and others regularly dispose of many copies.

The Directors wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Branches and individual members of the League for the ready and generous support accorded during the last eleven months, and to assure them that no stone will be left unturned until *The Vote* is self-supporting.

## BRANCHES.

Reports have been received from 25 Branches, extracts from which are given below:—

### London Branches.

ANERLEY.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS JESSIE FENNINGS; *Honorary Treasurer*: MRS. DAVIDSON; *Honorary Organizer*: MISS ETHEL FENNINGS.

Twenty-four open-air meetings have been held during the year at Penge, Crystal Palace, and South Norwood. In April a Green, White, and Gold Fair—in conjunction with the local branch of the Church League for Women's Suffrage—was held in the Town Hall, Anerley, resulting in a profit of over £7 to each society. In June a small Garden Sale (also with the Church League for Women's Suffrage) was held at "The Hermitage" (by kind permission of Mrs. Fennings), resulting in a profit of £1 10s. to each society, and, owing to the generous invitation of the promoters of a Fancy Franchise Fair at the Norwood District Suffrage Society offices, we had a stall there later in June. A most enjoyable Whist Drive was held at "The Hermitage" in October, which resulted in a profit of £2 14s. Anerley represented the United States at the International Suffrage Fair.

An offer (three times tendered) to present a free copy of *The Vote* weekly to the Penge Public Library has been refused. One of our members paid for a copy to be sent weekly to our local M.P., Mr. Fred Hall, and another one sold at a pitch in town occasionally. The local pitch in Upper Norwood was kept going regularly every Saturday morning by Miss Muriel or Miss Jessie Fennings, and *The Vote* has also been sold outside local public meetings and the Penge Parliament. Miss Muriel Fennings sold 1,950 copies locally during the year, and two local newsagents show posters. A quiet, but persistent agitation was carried on by our Honorary Organizer and our Honorary Secretary, with the assistance of two or three Socialist members, in connection with the Penge Parliament. Through their efforts the question of "Votes for Women" was brought before the house at practically every sitting during the session.

Several of our members took collecting boxes for the Special Levy Fund, and the branch sent up £10 6s. 6d. towards the Despard Birthday Fund, this making—with other donations—a total of £16 16s. to Headquarters. Our Honorary Organizer kept the local press supplied with Suffrage news and letters, which were always published.

Receipts for the year, £45 17s. 7d. Expenditure, £43 8s.

FINCHLEY.—*Honorary Secretary*: MRS. TINKLER.

In May, in conjunction with the Hampstead Garden Suburb Branch, we held a large and successful public meeting, when we were glad to welcome Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle as speakers. Our branch joined with that of Acton in holding the Egyptian, Persian, and Turkish Stall at the International Suffrage Fair at Chelsea. Our members worked very hard and enthusiastically in furnishing the required goods, and many generously offered their services in other ways. Special thanks are due to Miss Mosditchian as Fair Secretary for her untiring energy and care in organizing.

During the year we have established a *Vote* Secretary, with good results. A small sale of work took place in December, which helped the Branch funds. Drawing-room meetings have been held at which some subject bearing on the woman question (White Slave Traffic, Unmarried Mother, &c.) was discussed. These meetings have been very successful in eliciting intelligent and outspoken discussion.

HACKNEY.—*Honorary Secretary*: MRS. PIEROTTI.

Open-air meetings have been held in Victoria Park during the summer months, and Thursday afternoon "At Homes" at the Suffrage Shop in Clarence Road during the months of April, May, and June. The latter were kindly arranged and conducted by Mrs. Huntsman. Good work was carried out during the South Hackney bye-election in May, when most of the prominent speakers for the League visited Hackney; and, as a result, although the Liberal member was returned, we have the satisfaction of knowing that the majority was greatly reduced. Members of the Branch assisted in the good work at the Bow and Bromley bye-election, and in the subsequent propaganda campaign at Poplar in November. A joint Women's Freedom League and Women's Social and Political Union Reception to Mr. Mark Wilks was held in October, at which Mrs. Despard represented the League. Mrs. Mustard has taken part in several debates during the year.

The Suffrage Fair proved stimulating to the members of the Branch, and the sewing party under the direction of Mrs. Catmur produced many useful and attractive articles, which found a ready sale.

Receipts for the year, £54 2s. 4d. Expenditure, £57 3s. 4d. Balance from 1911, £3 5s. 9d.

HAMPSTEAD.—*Honorary Secretary*: MRS. SPILLER.

Monthly Branch meetings have been held, and in the summer weekly open-air meetings on Hampstead Heath.

A Garden Fête was organized by kind permission of Mr. H. Holiday at Oak Tree House—this helped us to contribute to the Birthday Fund. In November a Jumble Sale took place, which was a financial success, and the Stall at the International Suffrage Fair realized about £30.

In connection with the Borough Council Elections the Branch approached all candidates on the question of Woman Suffrage, and on polling day the members distributed bills, recommending our friends in the district to vote for the candidates who were prepared to support a resolution on the Council in favour of Woman Suffrage.

Receipts for the year, £34 16s. Expenditure, £32 12s. 10d.

KENSINGTON.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS MARION REEVES.

During the summer open-air meetings were held in North Kensington, at all of which our speakers had large and interested audiences. A series of very successful "Speakers' Classes" was started in January, conducted by Miss Boyle, to which members of other Branches were invited. In July a Reception and Cake and Candy Sale was held, by kind permission of Mrs. Brend, the proceeds of which were devoted to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Miss Janette Steer, assisted by members of the Chelsea Pastoral Players, arranged the entertainments.

At the International Suffrage Fair in November the Kensington Branch, with Hayes and Southall, was responsible for the South Africa Stall, which realized £14 15s. 6d.

In January, 1913, a very successful public meeting was held in Kensington Town Hall, the speakers being Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, and Miss Munro.

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MID LONDON.—*President*: MISS CICELY HAMILTON. *Honorary Secretary*: MRS. TRITTON; *Honorary Treasurer*: MISS EMILY HUNT.

Outdoor meetings have been held each Sunday in Hyde Park from April to October. The Branch held a very successful "At Home" at Dr. Lewin's in March, at which Mrs. Despard and Miss Cicely Hamilton spoke. The Mid-London Branch was responsible for the English Stall at the International Suffrage Fair, which realized £30. The Stall-holders were Mrs de Vismes and Mrs. Tritton, and the helpers Mrs. Hyde, Mrs. Macpherson, Miss Bosley, Miss Howe, Miss Taylor, and Mrs. Tanner—the attractiveness of the stall being greatly increased by the presence of four queens of England, viz., Elizabeth (Mrs. Monypenny), Mary (Mrs. Percy Edgar), Anne (Mrs. Cobden Sanderson), and Victoria (Mrs. Arnold Brown).

Receipts for the year £45 18s. 6d. Expenditure, £37 1s. 7d.

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NORTHERN HEIGHTS.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS ADA MITCHELL.

A successful public meeting was held in Haringay early in the year. During the summer open-air meetings were held in Finsbury Park on Thursday evenings. Our members worked very hard during the autumn for the International Suffrage Fair, where we held the China Stall and took over £20.

£20 10s. was raised during the year, our members contributing very generously to the Birthday Fund and to the Fair.

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WEST HAMPSTEAD.—*Honorary Secretary*: MRS. VAN RAALTE.

Branch meetings were held weekly from January till May. Several open-air meetings were held during June and July.

The Branch took part, with the Hampstead Branch, in sending out inquiries to local Borough Council candidates, and helped in the distribution of leaflets advising support to candidates who had answered the inquiries satisfactorily. A series of "Suffrage Talks to Working Women" was held at 211, Belsize Road, which resulted in an increase of membership. The Branch shared with Hampstead in holding the Finland Stall at the International Suffrage Fair.

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LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS E. CLAYTON.

Among the many resolutions passed last year by the London Branches Council are the two following:—

"That money grants be made to poor Branches on application in cases of loss on Public Meetings, &c."

"That 15s. a month for one year, starting from May, be paid to Hackney Branch towards rent of shop."

At the beginning of 1912 Mrs. Tanner very kindly accepted the Chairmanship of the Council, and though as a speaker she was much in demand elsewhere, she was able to preside at most of the meetings. The work done by the London Branches Council comprised a Jumble Sale and four Cafés Chantants

for the purpose of raising funds. A successful Public Meeting was held at Caxton Hall in February, following the opening of Parliament. For a fortnight previous to the meeting, the Council had the services of Miss Andrews as organizer, and the success of the meeting was a tribute to her and to those members of the Council who helped in working it up.

Early in the year the Council, in conjunction with the Suffrage Atelier, held a *Vote Soirée* at the Doré Gallery. Here again was scored a signal success, much of which was due to the energies of Mrs. Huntsman, who became Honorary Organizer to the Council in March.

The third great success of the year was the Reception in honour of Mrs. Despard's birthday, which was held at Caxton Hall on July 3rd. The chief feature was the splendid birthday gift to our President for the funds of the League.

As the year closes the Council has decided to hold public meetings in all the affiliated branches.

Receipts for the year, £67 16s. 0½d. Expenditure, £42 10s. 9d.

### Provincial Branches.

AINTREE.—*Honorary Secretary*: MRS. I. F. SHAW; *Honorary Treasurer*: MRS. B. MCGUFFIE.

The Branch was formed in April, 1912, by Miss Munro, aided by Mrs. Evans of Waterloo. During the year, in addition to branch meetings, five public meetings have been held, also a Cake and Candy Sale, organized in aid of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. The public meetings have been well attended, and as there is no other Suffrage Society in the immediate neighbourhood, have served to keep the question of Women's Suffrage alive in the district.

Apart from new members, the Branch is rapidly widening its sphere of influence, requests for speakers having been received from the local British Women's Temperance Association and British Socialist Party. We are indebted to the following ladies and gentlemen for help in speaking or presiding at meetings: Mrs. Davey, Mrs. Delano (Boston, U.S.A.), Mrs. Evans, Miss Appleton, Miss Munro, Miss Boyle, Mr. Laurence Housman, Mr. John Edwards, Rev. H. D. Roberts, Rev. F. W. Nicholson, Mr. F. W. Crutchley, and Mr. A. E. Shaw.

Total receipts for year, £13 15s. 6d. Expenditure, £11 9s. 5d.

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BRIGHTON AND HOVE.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS HARE.

This Branch has made steady and satisfactory progress—the number of members has greatly increased. From February to May a considerable number of meetings were held, the speakers being Mrs. Nevinson, Mrs. Francis, Dr. Drysdale, Dr. L. Fairfield, Miss White, and Miss Hare.

From May to July a series of very successful meetings for working women was held, the last of which was addressed by Mrs. Despard. It is hoped to arrange some more of these. Two of our members—Mrs. Gerlack and Miss Hare—refused to pay their Imperial Taxes, in consequence of which goods were seized from both ladies, and sold eventually by public auction. The Women's Freedom League and the Women's Tax Resistance League held combined protest meetings on the same day, the speakers being Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Hare for the Women's Freedom League, and Mrs. Louis Fagan for the Women's Tax Resistance League.

From September to November weekly meetings were held to prepare articles for the International Suffrage Fair held in Town Hall, Chelsea, in November. An exhibition of goods contributed by the local Branch was held at 8, San Remo on November 11th, the value of these amounting to between £15 and £16.

In addition to the local work the Honorary Secretary has spoken at Bexhill, Hastings, Eastbourne, and Hexham on the subject of Woman's Suffrage and the White Slave Traffic.

The Branch was represented officially at an important Suffrage meeting at the Dome on November 8th, addressed by Miss Abadam, Lord Lytton, and Mr. George Lansbury.

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CHELTENHAM.—*Honorary Secretary*: MADAME BOROVIKOVSKY.

At the last annual meeting Madame Borovikovsky was elected Honorary Secretary in the place of Mrs. Earengy, who was resigning, but who afterwards consented to become President.

In April the Branch took part in a joint meeting with the local National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and Conservative and Unionist Franchise Association at the Town Hall. Mr. Agg-Gardner, who had previously introduced his Bill for Woman Suffrage in the House, took the chair, and Miss Nina Boyle spoke for the Women's Freedom League. This meeting was well attended and enthusiastic, so also was another joint meeting with the same societies held in June in support of the Criminal Law Amendment Act (White Slave Traffic).

In March Mrs. Powell gave a very successful "At Home" at Romsey House, Mrs. Tanner being the speaker.

In April Mrs. Earengy arranged an "At Home" at her house, Dr. Earengy being in the chair, and Mrs. Despard speaking on 'Woman's Work and Influence.' This was well attended and most enjoyable. In October Miss Andrews visited the Branch, and by kind permission of Miss Bardsley an "At Home" was held at "Snowdon." In November the Branch was represented at the International Suffrage Fair in London by Miss How and Miss Boulton. Contributions were sent by members. In December Miss Bardsley again lent a room where an evening meeting was held, Mrs. Nevinson giving an interesting speech on the political situation. In February five of our members posted the Women's Freedom League proclamations on the General Post Office and other public places, and for unlawfully placarding the pillar-boxes three of them were arrested and taken to the police station, and their names and addresses secured.

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CHESTER.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS E. WOODALL.

The membership has increased this year, and several associates have also been gained. The turnover during the year was £25. Meetings and "At Homes" have been held to pave the way for new Branches in four districts, and one group has been formed with Miss Trott as Honorary Secretary. It is hoped to form another at Helsby in Cheshire, where Mrs. Despard came to speak in February and Miss Andrews to organize. Mrs. Howroyd, a very enthusiastic member there, lent her room for a drawing-room meeting in March.

In the spring Mrs. Despard spoke at a very successful drawing-room meeting, and in September our President came again, accompanied by Miss Munro, and addressed a public meeting. In November Miss Boyle spoke at an "At Home" and at a series of meetings outside Chester. In November a Provision Sale was held at Miss Taylor's to raise money for the Stall at the International Suffrage Fair, and there was an Exhibition of all fancy goods members had sent. Miss Trott undertook to be "Fair" Secretary, and one of our members acted as stall holder.

Fortnightly speakers' classes have been held, which consist entirely of beginners, with the exception of one or two who direct and criticize. They were found to be a great help, and proved to be very popular.

IPSWICH.—*Honorary Secretary*: MRS. PRATT; *Honorary Treasurer*: MRS. TIPPETT.

The Branch gave up the rooms in Museum Street, and in May moved to 22, Queen Street, where, through the enterprise of our Treasurer, we rented part of a shop with a club room for our meetings. Every Thursday members have met, sometimes for education and at others for recreation. Our cause has been greatly helped by Tax Resistance Protests, and the Caravan Tour, during which Mrs. Despard addressed an immense crowd on the Corn Hill, and a garden meeting at 160, Norwich Road.

An illuminated garden fête was held at 160, Norwich Road on July 22nd, when funds were raised for decorating the club room. Several of our members were present at the International Suffrage Fair, Chelsea Town Hall, for which we all worked with so much pleasure. *The Vote* is sold every Saturday outside the Flower Market.

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MANCHESTER.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS A. E. HORDERN; *Honorary Treasurers*: MISS FILDES and MISS KIPPS. *Office*: 46A, Market Street.

During 1912, in addition to other meetings, four social, ten open-air, and ten public meetings have been held. Manchester members have taken part in three by-elections, formed two new Branches (Burnage and Walkden), and been successful in getting many post cards signed by men voters, urging their M.P. to vote against the third reading of the Reform Bill if women were not included.

Financial assistance has been given to Headquarters by means of goods to Suffrage Fair and contribution to the Birthday Fund. Two Jumble Sales and three concerts have been held to raise Branch funds.

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MIDDLESBROUGH.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS A. MAHONY.

Our weekly meetings have been successful, probably owing to the fact that they are held in the same place. The work of the Branch is divided out amongst the members. Besides the Honorary Secretary, there is a Press Secretary who reports our meetings to the local papers regularly, a Literature Secretary and Merchandise Secretary, who are greatly interested in their sales. The autumn session was begun by a meeting at which Miss Nina Boyle and Mrs. Nevinson were the speakers. Other meetings were held at which various aspects of the woman's movement were discussed, such as: Women and the Peace Movement, Women of the French Revolution, Women's Suffrage in the Light of Christian Ethics, and the Tribunal of Authority in the Woman's Question. Two Suffrage Plays were given in October—'How the Vote was Won' and 'Alice in Ganderland.'

The greatest event of the session was the debate on Woman Suffrage, when Mr. Charles Coates and Miss Winifred M. Jones spoke against Miss Gertrude Bell and Miss Gladys Pott, and won by a big majority. Three days after we held a social and fair.

During the year Dr. Levick has spoken on 'The History of the Woman's Suffrage Movement,' Miss Winifred Jones on 'Ibsen as a Pioneer of the Woman's Movement,' Miss Purvis on 'The Evolution of Nursing Reform,' Mr. Davies on 'The Effects of the Enfranchisement of Women on Social Life,' and Mr. Charles Coates on 'Objections to Women's Enfranchisement Answered,' which was followed by an animated discussion.

Seventy proclamations were posted up by members and caused a great stir. Everybody knew about them, though few saw them, owing to the energy of the police force.

In the spring a series of meetings was held in the Girls' High School, and in addition fifteen business meetings have been held.

Receipts for the year, £69 5s. 10½d. Expenditure, £67.

PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT.—*Honorary Secretary*: MRS. WHETTON.

During the year 1912 five public meetings, one drawing-room meeting, and seven open-air meetings have been held. To raise funds for the Branch four whist drives and one café chantant were given.

Articles to the value of £5 and 250 paper chrysanthemums for decoration were sent to the International Suffrage Fair in November. The series of open-air meetings on Southsea Common was very successful. A regular supply of *The Vote* has been taken by the Branch, and five copies have been sent to the Free Libraries, one to the Reading-Room on the Pier, and one to the local *Evening News*. The Women's Freedom League tea has sold well to members and friends, our tea agent having already sent over £10 to the Merchandise Department.

SHEFFIELD.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS MACDONALD.

During 1912 three public meetings have been held. A good deal of work has been carried on in various ways, several indoor meetings have been held, also a good number of outdoor meetings, together with dinner-hour meetings which took place at the large works in different parts of the City. A very successful demonstration was organized in conjunction with the local Branch of the Women's Social and Political Union, another was held conjointly with the Sheffield Trades Labour Party and Women's Social and Political Union.

Weekly sewing meetings were organized in connection with the International Suffrage Fair. A very successful "At Home" in December finished the year's work. Mr. Golding of London kindly offered to speak, and a few of the members gave a production of the Suffrage sketch 'The Passing of Dolly,' with much acceptance.

Receipts for the year for 1912, £31 1s. 10d. Expenditure, £40 4s. Balance from year 1911, £21 11s. 5d.

WATERLOO (LIVERPOOL).—*Honorary Secretary*: MRS. EVANS.

Open meetings, to which visitors were invited, and at which addresses were given, include two drawing-room meetings, four afternoon meetings at Crosby Parish Hall, and three evening meetings at Pennington's Café. Three public meetings were held during the year at Waterloo Town Hall—speakers, Mrs. Despard and Miss Neal; chair, Mrs. Evans; Bootle Reform Club—speakers, Miss Munro and Mrs. Evans; chair, Mrs. Shaw; Yamen Café, Liverpool—speaker, Mr. Laurence Housman; chair, Rev. H. D. Roberts.

In addition to subscriptions and donations, the income of the Branch was augmented by proceeds from an American Tea (April) and a Jumble Sale (June), and a Cake and Flower Sale (February). The Branch has paid its own local expenses, and been able to send a donation to the Birthday Fund, and a contribution of needlework to the International Suffrage Fair.

The Waterloo Branch was invited to send speakers on the subject of "Votes for Women" to the Crosby Literary Society, Seaforth Branch of the British Socialist Party, Crosby Liberal Women's Association, and Liverpool Branch of the National Federation of Women Teachers. The Secretary, at the request of the National Federation of Women Teachers, supported the Suffrage motion at a meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the National Union of Teachers, and Liverpool has again sent that motion to Conference as one of the first six to be discussed.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—*Honorary Secretary*: MRS. ENGLISH.

In addition to branch meetings, four drawing-room meetings have been held during the year, eleven public meetings, and four open-air meetings. Speakers: Mrs. Schofield Coates, Miss Munro, Miss Nina Boyle, Miss Cook, Mrs. F. Garbutt, Miss Andrews, Rev. F. Ward, B.A., Mr. M. Atkinson, B.A., Mr. Norman, Mr. G. Birks, and Mr. Ross.

A large meeting was held in January in support of Women's Suffrage in the Town Hall, in conjunction with the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, the principal speakers being Mrs. Swanwick and Mrs. Schofield Coates, with the Mayor (Councillor R. Martin) in the chair. An augmented Suffrage Choir (Newcastle and West Hartlepool) gave a number of Suffrage songs. Literature, badges, and *The Vote* sold well. In June a Whist Drive was held, and in July a Jumble Sale, as a result of which £3 5s. was sent towards the Birthday Fund. In January £3 was sent to Headquarters towards the Treasurer's New Year's Gift.

Weekly sewing meetings were held from January to June, which enabled us to send garments to the value of £4 17s. 6d. to the International Suffrage Fair.

Miss Munro visited the Branch in February, and Miss Andrews in November, when a series of meetings were held and new members gained. The local press have kindly devoted much space to accounts of all public meetings, reports of branch meetings, and correspondence on Women's Suffrage are always readily inserted.

Receipts for year, £16 17s. 6½d. Expenditure, £16 16s. 4d.

### Scottish Branches.

DUNDEE.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS HELEN WILKIE, M.A.

During the year a Joint Open-Air Demonstration with the National Union and Women's Social and Political Union was held. In September a letter was sent to the papers and to the Town Clerk protesting against the action of the Town Council in deciding to offer the Freedom of the City to Mr. Asquith.

In January an Open-Air Demonstration jointly with the Women's Social and Political Union was held to protest against Mr. Asquith's being presented with the Freedom of the City.

Fortnightly meetings have been held at which very interesting addresses have been given, followed by animated discussions.

Posters proclaiming the Women's Freedom League's defiance of law were put up in public places. Resolutions were sent to Mr. Asquith and other members of the Cabinet, calling upon the Government to bring in a Government measure for Women's Franchise.

EDINBURGH.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS A. B. JACK.

The Edinburgh Branch took part in two bye-elections: East Edinburgh, when we had the help of Miss Gibson and Miss Neilans; and Mid-Lothian, when Miss Boyle and Mrs. Sproson, by their untiring work, helped to rout the Government from its historic stronghold.

Open-air demonstrations were held in March in support of the Conciliation Bill, and in July to demand the inclusion of women in the Government Reform Bill. Schedules demanding the payment of Income Tax continue to be sent; no tax is paid, but nothing happens.

Posters proclaiming our defiance of the law were posted on various Government and public buildings, but no notice was taken of these.



Weekly evening meetings have been held during the year. Once a month the meeting partakes of the nature of an "At Home." On two of these occasions Mrs. Despard spoke to large and enthusiastic audiences. A very large public meeting—over 2,000 being present—was held in support of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. Mrs. Despard was one of the speakers, and Dr. Elsie Inglis and two of our leading clergymen also helped. A series of cookery, sweet-making, and sick nursing demonstrations was carried through, and also an intensely interesting course of lectures on 'The Social Evil: its Cause and Cure.'

One other interesting event was the send-off given by this Branch to the Women's March. Thousands filled Charlotte Square and listened to the speakers. Dense crowds lined the street, and many marched to the first halting place. Mrs. Despard headed the procession, along with Mrs. de Fonblanque, and one of our members—Miss Nannie Brown—marched all the way from Edinburgh to London, and afterwards gave to the Branch and the public a most interesting account of the marchers' journeyings.

Many addresses have been given by our members to Literary Societies, Women's Guilds, Mothers' Meetings, Girls' Clubs, &c. Three of our members helped in the Clyde Campaign, and an exhibition of posters, &c., from the Suffrage Atelier proved by its pictorial method a most instructive way of teaching our gospel to outsiders.

A Burns Night—the first Woman's Burns Night ever held—a Hard Up Social, and a Garden Party served to uphold our character for excellent, original dramatic entertainments, and these, along with two whist drives, two sales of work, and a Jumble Sale proved successful ways of raising money.

Throughout the year the shop has been kept open by voluntary workers, and a very steady sale of literature has been maintained.

Receipts for the year £213 8s. Expenditure, £224 3s. 3½d. Balance from 1911, £57 9s. 5½d.

GLASGOW.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS J. BUNTEN.

Throughout the year open-air meetings have been held in all the different districts of Glasgow, besides the outlying districts of Busby, Rutherglen, Motherwell, Hamilton, Kirkintilloch, Baillieston, Alexandria, and Cambuslang. In addition to these meetings arranged by the Branch, speakers have been sent to the following societies: North Portland Street Adult School, Minerva Literary Club, London Road Co-operative Society, Tighnabruich United Free Church Literary Society, Dumbarton Independent Labour Party Women's Guild, Rothesay Branch Women's Freedom League, Scotstoun Independent Labour Party, United Irish League, Govan Independent Labour Party, and Lyceum Literary Society.

During the week before the Reform Bill was expected to come up for the Second Reading, resolutions were sent up from various districts to the Prime Minister and the local members. The success of these meetings has been due in very large measure to the splendid service and excellent speaking of Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Semple, and Miss Shennan, who are always willing to lend their aid. Several of our members also took part in the Coast Campaign. During the year 52 have been added to our membership.

The Council decided, and the Branch agreed, to resist the Insurance Act. Some correspondence has passed between the Secretary and the Scottish Commissioners, which resulted in a visit from the inspector, who threatened to prosecute, but nothing has been done.

Goods to the value of over £50 were sent to the International Suffrage Fair.

A Cake and Candy Sale, organized by the Council under the convenership of Mrs. Wilson, was a great success. There was also a successful Jumble Sale organized by the Partick members. The total Sale of literature throughout the year amounts to £44 10s. 8d.

During the year three public meetings have been held, all of which were very successful. From the first two there was a total clear profit of £32 12s. 8d., and from the third one, which was a free meeting, there was a profit of 12s. 2d. Three "At Homes" have been held in the Branch shop in the months of December, 1912, January and February, 1913, all of which were well attended.

Receipts for the year, £312 4s. 4d. Expenditure, £311 3s. 8d.

### Welsh Branches.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGH BRANCH.—*President*: MRS. SCOTT; *Vice-President*: MRS. BUSCH-MICHELL; *Honorary Treasurer*: MRS. FELIX JONES; *Honorary Secretary*: MISS ALIX M. CLARK.

Large "At Homes" have been held at Newtown and Llanfyllin, and public meetings at Llanfyllin, Llanidloes, and Machynlleth.

A great amount of work was done to ensure the success of the Green, Gold, and White Fairs at Llanfyllin and Newtown.

A large number of *Votes* are regularly sold, and there is a brisk business with the Merchandise Department.

Receipts for the year £91. Expenditure, £78 1s. 11d.

SWANSEA.—*Honorary Secretary*: MISS M. HUTTON.

In April a very successful Branch meeting was held at the Cartref Café, when the Women's Freedom League arranged a Mock Parliamentary Election. There was a large attendance, including many strangers.

At a meeting held in May, a report was read by Mrs. Knight on 'A Municipal Lodging House for Women,' which the Women's Freedom League were anxious to get in Swansea. A meeting was held in June, when the Rev. Simon Jones, B.A., gave a most interesting paper on 'Occupations for Women and their Remuneration.'

The money collected for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund was augmented by a contribution from the Women's Labour League.

In July Mrs. Sproson came to Swansea for a week's campaign, when many outdoor meetings were held. Miss Andrews also visited Swansea, when the following meetings were arranged: one with the Independent Labour Party, a Drawing-Room Meeting (when Mrs. Despard gave the address and Miss Andrews took the chair), and a Mass Meeting on Women's Suffrage, arranged by the Swansea Branch of the Women's Liberal Association, to which all members of the Women's Freedom League were invited.

A Jumble Sale was held in the Ragged School in November, which brought in about £6.

In December the Mock Parliamentary Election was repeated at the Headquarters of the Young Liberals.

Mrs. and Miss James took charge of the Welsh Stall at the International Suffrage Fair.

A Public Meeting was held in December, when Mrs. Nevinson spoke on 'The Immediate Need of the Vote for Women.' The chair was taken by the Mayoress—Mrs. David Williams—who also spoke. The following resolution was put to the meeting and carried: "That this meeting demands that women be included in the Reform Bill to be brought in this Session."

In February several members volunteered to post the town with the placards sent from Headquarters.

In February a Dramatic Entertainment was held to celebrate the fifth year of the Women's Freedom League in Swansea.

# WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

## Cash Statement.

January 1st to December 31st, 1912.

| RECEIPTS.   |             | EXPENDITURE.  |              |
|---|-------------|---|--------------|
| To Subscriptions, Donations, &c., as per list       | £ 1,419 8 1 | By Rent, Fire, Light, Office Expenses, &c.  | £ 383 7 9    |
| Branch Donations, Capitation Fees, &c., as per list | 344 2 5     | " Hire of Halls and Decorations   | 111 14 0     |
|   | 1,763 10 6  | " Stationery  | 88 10 11     |
| " Collections                                       | 140 14 1    | " Printing and Advertising  | 147 9 3      |
| " Sale of Tickets                                   | 27 11 3     | " Postage, Telegrams, Telephone, &c.  | 123 0 9      |
| " Sundry Receipts                                   | 96 9 1      | " Salaries  | 748 5 2      |
| " Interest  | 1 14 4      | " Travelling  | 192 3 10     |
| " "International Suffrage Fair" Receipts            | 828 19 5    | " Voluntary Workers' Expenses   | 48 6 3       |
|   | 2,858 18 8  | " Bye-Election Expenses   | 117 1 10     |
| " Cash at Bank, Jan. 1st, 1912                      | 258 8 5     | " "Vote" Subsidy  | 58 0 0       |
| " Cash in Hand, Jan. 1st, 1912                      | 3 3 0       | " Caravan   | 36 0 6       |
|   | £261 11 5   | " Subscriptions to National Union of Women Workers and to Joint Parliamentary Committee | 6 1 0        |
|   |             | " "International Suffrage Fair" Expenses  | 471 18 8     |
|   | £3,120 10 1 |   | £2,531 19 11 |
|   |             | " Cash at Bank, Dec. 31st, 1912, on Deposit Account                                     | £ 150 0 0    |
|   |             | " Cash at Bank, Dec. 31st, 1912, on Current Account                                     | 435 9 0      |
|   |             | " Cash in Treasurer's Hands   | 2 11 0       |
|   |             | " Cash in Office and in Organizer's Hands   | 0 10 2       |
|   |             |   | 588 10 2     |
|   |             |   | £3,120 10 1  |

# WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

## Annual Balance Sheet.

at

31st December, 1912.

| LIABILITIES.                                     | £ | s. | d.          | ASSETS.  | £ | s. | d.          |
|--|---|----|-------------|--|---|----|-------------|
| Rent, Christmas Quarter                          |   |    | 60 0 0      | Presentation Plate (seized and sold for Mrs. Despard's Income Tax and presented by the purchaser, Victor Luxembourg, Esq.) |   |    | 10 0 0      |
| Balance, being excess of Assets over Liabilities |   |    | 1,397 19 3  | Office Furniture and Fittings  |   |    | 94 7 10     |
|  |   |    |             | Less Depreciation 10 per cent  |   |    | 9 8 9       |
|  |   |    |             | Literature Department Balance  |   |    | 84 19 1     |
|  |   |    |             | 1,964 fully paid Shares in Minerva Publishing Co.  |   |    | 283 10 0    |
|  |   |    |             | Cash at Bank on Deposit Account  |   |    | 150 0 0     |
|  |   |    |             | Cash at Bank on Current Account  |   |    | 435 9 0     |
|  |   |    |             | Cash in Hand   |   |    | 3 1 2       |
|  |   |    | £1,457 19 3 |  |   |    | 588 10 2    |
|  |   |    |             |  |   |    | £1,457 19 3 |

I have compared the foregoing Accounts with the Books and Vouchers of the League and find them to be correct and in accordance therewith.

E. KNIGHT, *Hon. Treasurer,*  
March 20th, 1913.

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE, *Certified Accountant,*  
Hampton House, King'sway, W.C.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ending December 31st, 1912.

|  |      |    |    |                     |     |    |    |
|--|------|----|----|---------------------|-----|----|----|
| To Rent                                  | £    | s. | d. | By Gross Profit     | £   | s. | d. |
| " Salary                                 | 15   | 0  | 0  | " Discount received | 180 | 11 | 5  |
| " Printing and Stationery                | 70   | 10 | 0  |                     | 6   | 3  | 10 |
| " Carriage, Postage, and Office Expenses | 1    | 9  | 9  |                     |     |    |    |
| " Discount Allowed                       | 30   | 14 | 2  |                     |     |    |    |
| " Bad Debts                              | 39   | 17 | 2  |                     |     |    |    |
| " Advertising                            | 1    | 9  | 4  |                     |     |    |    |
|  | 1    | 3  | 0  |                     |     |    |    |
| Expenses                                 | 160  | 3  | 5  |                     |     |    |    |
| Net Profit                               | 26   | 11 | 10 |                     |     |    |    |
|  | £186 | 15 | 3  |                     |     |    |    |

Balance Sheet at December 31st, 1912.

|                                      |      |    |    |                  |     |    |    |
|--------------------------------------|------|----|----|------------------|-----|----|----|
| Trade Creditors                      | £    | s. | d. | Stock in Hand    | £   | s. | d. |
| Rent Outstanding (Christmas quarter) | 32   | 15 | 2  | Sundry Creditors | 180 | 0  | 0  |
| Profit and Loss Account              | 3    | 15 | 0  | General          | 1   | 14 | 4  |
| Balance at January 1st, 1912         | 256  | 18 | 2  | Branches         | 47  | 6  | 1  |
| Add net Profit for 1912              | 26   | 11 | 10 | Other Societies  | 14  | 19 | 2  |
|                                      | 283  | 10 | 0  | Cash at Bank     | 63  | 19 | 7  |
|                                      | £320 | 0  | 2  |                  | 76  | 0  | 7  |

I have compared the foregoing Accounts with the Books and Vouchers of the Literature Department of the Women's Freedom League, and find them to be correct and in accordance therewith.

E. KNIGHT, *Hon. Treasurer*,  
March, 1913.

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE, *Certified Accountant*,  
Hamnden House, Kingsway, W.C.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS' LIST.

|                                 |     |    |    |                         |    |    |    |
|---------------------------------|-----|----|----|-------------------------|----|----|----|
| Aaron, Mrs. D. H.               | £   | s. | d. | Balfour, Mrs.           | £  | s. | d. |
| Abney, Mrs. Alice               | 1   | 0  | 0  | Ball, Mrs. Lillian      | 7  | 0  | 0  |
| Abrahams, Miss A. E.            | 0   | 1  | 0  | Banks, Miss Elizabeth   | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Adams, Miss F. E.               | 0   | 10 | 0  | Barbour, Miss M.        | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Adams, Miss Winifred M.         | 0   | 2  | 6  | Barger, Mrs. F.         | 0  | 7  | 6  |
| Allen, Mrs. E.                  | 0   | 1  | 0  | Barker, Mrs. Ethel      | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Allwork, Miss D.                | 0   | 2  | 6  | Barnet, Miss            | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Anderson, Mrs. & Miss D.        | 0   | 5  | 0  | Barrow, Miss            | 0  | 5  | 0  |
| Anderson, Miss Mary             | 0   | 10 | 0  | Barton, Miss N.         | 3  | 14 | 0  |
| Andrews, Mrs.                   | 8   | 6  | 0  | Bartram, Mrs.           | 0  | 2  | 9  |
| Anning, Miss A.                 | 1   | 1  | 0  | Bastian, Mrs.           | 0  | 10 | 0  |
| Anonymous                       | 0   | 2  | 0  | Baughan, Miss           | 11 | 0  | 6  |
| Do.                             | 100 | 0  | 0  | Beach, Miss R.          | 0  | 2  | 0  |
| Do.                             | 100 | 0  | 0  | Beadon, Miss            | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Do.                             | 50  | 0  | 0  | Beebe, Mrs.             | 0  | 2  | 6  |
| Do.                             | 25  | 0  | 0  | Bell, Miss              | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Do.                             | 25  | 0  | 0  | Bellows, Miss D.        | 0  | 2  | 6  |
| Do.                             | 5   | 0  | 0  | Benett, Miss            | 0  | 2  | 0  |
| Do.                             | 2   | 0  | 0  | Berkeley Smith, Miss K. | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Do.                             | 1   | 1  | 0  | Biggar, Miss E. K.      | 0  | 3  | 0  |
| Do.                             | 1   | 0  | 0  | Biggar, Mrs.            | 0  | 3  | 0  |
| Do.                             | 0   | 10 | 0  | Birnstingl, Miss Ethel  | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Do.                             | 0   | 2  | 6  | Bisdee, Miss            | 0  | 2  | 6  |
| Do.                             | 0   | 2  | 0  | Bisset Smith, Miss      | 0  | 2  | 6  |
| Do.                             | 0   | 2  | 0  | Blackwell, Miss D.      | 0  | 10 | 0  |
| Anonymous Member                | 0   | 3  | 0  | Blake, Miss E.          | 0  | 2  | 6  |
| Anonymous, per Mrs. Despard     | 30  | 0  | 0  | Bliss, Miss             | 0  | 2  | 6  |
| Anonymous, per Dr. Knight       | 4   | 0  | 0  | Blomfield, Lady         | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Anonymous, per Edinburgh Branch | 1   | 1  | 0  | Bobby, Mrs.             | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| Anonymous, per Miss Annie Smith | 1   | 0  | 0  | Bobby, Miss A. L.       | 0  | 2  | 6  |
| Anonymous, per Miss Bosley      | 0   | 10 | 6  | Bois, Miss M.           | 0  | 3  | 0  |
| Anonymous, per Miss Anna Munro  | 0   | 5  | 0  | Bonocini, Mrs.          | 0  | 7  | 6  |
| Anonymous, per Miss Lee         | 0   | 3  | 0  | Boorman, Miss Jessie    | 0  | 5  | 0  |
| Anonymous, per Mrs. Hyde        | 0   | 2  | 6  | Boothby, Miss           | 0  | 13 | 6  |
| Anstruther, Mrs.                | 5   | 0  | 0  | Bosley, Miss            | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Armstrong, Madame Marie         | 0   | 10 | 6  | Boston, Miss A. E.      | 0  | 10 | 0  |
| Arthur, Miss M.                 | 0   | 2  | 6  | Boston, Miss E.         | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Ash, Miss Marguerite            | 0   | 1  | 0  | Boult, Miss W. L.       | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Ashton, Mrs.                    | 1   | 0  | 0  | Boxall, — Esq.          | 1  | 5  | 0  |
|                                 |     |    |    | Boyce, Miss N. M.       | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Bache, Miss M.                  | 0   | 5  | 0  | Boyle, Miss             | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Baenziger, Miss                 | 0   | 1  | 0  | Branch, Miss Evelyn     | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| Bailey, Miss                    | 0   | 1  | 0  |                         | 0  | 10 | 0  |
| Baillie Weaver, Mr. and Mrs.    | 2   | 2  | 0  |                         |    |    |    |
| Bain, Mrs.                      | 0   | 1  | 0  |                         |    |    |    |
| Baker, Miss E. M.               | 0   | 2  | 6  |                         |    |    |    |

BRANCHES.

|                     |    |    |    |
|---------------------|----|----|----|
| Capitation Fees     | £  | s. | d. |
| Delegates' Expenses | 27 | 16 | 0  |
| Aberdare            | 13 | 7  | 0  |
| Aintree             | 0  | 15 | 6  |
| Anerley             | 2  | 10 | 0  |
| Battersea           | 16 | 5  | 3  |
| Brighton            | 0  | 2  | 0  |
| Burnage             | 2  | 19 | 6  |
|                     | 2  | 0  | 0  |





|   | £  | s. | d. |                                       | £      | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|---------------------------------------|--------|----|----|
| Stevenson, Miss F. L. ..                                  | 0  | 2  | 0  | Varian, Mrs. W. ..                    | 0      | 2  | 0  |
| Stewart, Mrs. A. ..                                       | 2  | 1  | 0  | Vassieopolo, Miss Lucie A. ..         | 0      | 5  | 0  |
| Stewart, Mrs. Agnes ..                                    | 0  | 5  | 0  | Vaughan Rhys, Mrs. K. F. ..           | 0      | 2  | 0  |
| Stirling, Miss M. ...                                     | 1  | 11 | 0  | Vickery, Dr. Alice ..                 | 6      | 1  | 0  |
| Stopes, Dr. Marie ..                                      | 0  | 1  | 0  | Vismes, Mrs. de ..                    | 1      | 0  | 0  |
| "Subscriptions stopped<br>till women have the<br>Vote" .. | 10 | 10 | 0  | "Votes in 1912" ..                    | 6      | 0  | 0  |
| Sutcliffe, Mrs. ..  | 0  | 2  | 6  | Vulliamy, Mr. and Mrs. ...            | 5      | 5  | 0  |
| Sutherland, Mrs. ..                                       | 0  | 1  | 0  | Vulliamy, Mrs. K. ..                  | 4      | 1  | 1  |
| Swiney, Mrs. ..   | 0  | 5  | 0  |                                       |        |    |    |
| Symons, Miss H. ..  | 2  | 2  | 0  | Wall, Edward, Esq. ..                 | 1      | 1  | 0  |
| Sympathiser, A ..   | 0  | 1  | 0  | Wallace, The Misses ..                | 1      | 2  | 6  |
|   |    |    |    | Wall Cousins, Mrs. ..                 | 1      | 1  | 0  |
| Tanner, Mrs. ..   | 0  | 18 | 0  | Wardell, Miss E. ..                   | 0      | 2  | 6  |
| Taylor, Miss ..   | 0  | 1  | 6  | Warr, Muriel, Countess de<br>la ..    | 11     | 1  | 0  |
| Taylor, Miss ..   | 0  | 1  | 0  | Watson, Miss ..                       | 0      | 1  | 0  |
| Taylor, Miss B. ..  | 0  | 1  | 6  | Watson, Mrs. ..                       | 0      | 1  | 0  |
| Taylor, Mrs., B.A. ..                                     | 0  | 6  | 0  | Weir, Miss J. Ellinor ..              | 0      | 10 | 0  |
| Taylor Brown, Mrs. ..                                     | 1  | 13 | 1  | Whish, Mrs. ..                        | 1      | 1  | 0  |
| Terry, Mrs. ..  | 0  | 5  | 4  | White, Miss ..                        | 0      | 1  | 0  |
| "Thank Offering" ..                                       | 0  | 10 | 0  | White, Miss Emily ..                  | 0      | 1  | 0  |
| Thomas, Mrs. ..   | 0  | 10 | 0  | Whitley, Mrs. G. C. ..                | 3      | 5  | 0  |
| Thomas, Mrs. David ..                                     | 15 | 10 | 0  | "Widow's Mite, A" ..                  | 0      | 1  | 0  |
| Thompson, Alfred, Esq. ..                                 | 0  | 10 | 6  | Wiener, Mrs. ..                       | 0      | 11 | 6  |
| Thompson, Mrs. Gilchrist ..                               | 15 | 0  | 0  | Wildman, Miss V. ..                   | 0      | 3  | 0  |
| Thomson, Miss J. D. ..                                    | 0  | 2  | 6  | Williams, Miss Henria<br>(bequest) .. | 45     | 0  | 0  |
| Thomson, Mrs. A. A. ..                                    | 1  | 10 | 0  | Williamson, Mrs. ..                   | 0      | 1  | 0  |
| Thomson, Mrs. A. W. ..                                    | 80 | 0  | 0  | Willock, Richard, Esq. ..             | 0      | 1  | 0  |
| Thomson Price, Mrs. ..                                    | 2  | 1  | 0  | Wills, Mrs. ..                        | 0      | 6  | 0  |
| Thoumaian, Madame ..                                      | 0  | 3  | 0  | Wilson, Miss M. M. ..                 | 0      | 1  | 0  |
| Thynne, Miss K. ..  | 1  | 1  | 0  | Wilson, Miss Patricia ..              | 0      | 1  | 0  |
| Tigg, Miss R. L. ...                                      | 0  | 3  | 6  | Winterne, Mrs. ..                     | 0      | 7  | 6  |
| Tippett, Mrs. ..  | 8  | 4  | 0  | Woolf, Miss L. G. ..                  | 0      | 11 | 6  |
| Tite, Miss Constance ..                                   | 25 | 5  | 0  | Wolseley, Miss ..                     | 0      | 1  | 6  |
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