

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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WHAT WE THINK.

The Conspiracy.

Within hailing distance of old Tyburn on Saturday last, and within sight of the Reformers' Tree, we met the menace engineered by the vicious, the obstinate, the ignorant, and the selfish, by those who take the name of the Empire in vain, by those who do not realise the difference in exercising power that is wrested from equals and power that is wrung from slaves. Every effort is being made to break up the Conciliation Committee. Every effort is being made to say that it is broken up, and the wish of our opponents is father to the thought. And the public gave us what evidence we needed that it sympathises with and supports our Bill.

Every effort is being made to tempt those who favour the largest measure of enfranchisement—adult suffrage—into discontent with this measure. Mr. Lloyd George is surreptitiously engineering the conspiracy. Still professing Suffrage convictions he attended a meeting of Liberal members who were professedly in favour of the measure, and there urged them not to press the Cabinet to grant further facilities. "To do so," he said, "will divide the Liberal Party and weaken their assault upon the Lords." He also urged that it would be unfair to the promoters of Welsh Disestablishment, inasmuch as the Welsh members had a prior claim, and he went on to say that in a year or two it might be possible to deal with women's suffrage on adequate lines. The Bill, he further declared, was not democratic enough. Now, the exact connection between the Veto, Welsh Disestablishment, and the Suffrage is hard to see. Mr. Lloyd George must have taken up his political field-glasses by the wrong end if he imagines that Welsh Disestablishment is a live issue with the electors of England, and he must know that the apathy of the country to the Veto question was shown by the results of the last General Election. The majority—110—in favour of our Bill is, as we have said before, a greater majority than any other political issue—the Veto, Welsh Disestablishment, Free Trade, or Tariff Reform—could command amongst those whom the male people have sent to represent them at the House, and why it should be shelved in favour of questions of proved secondary importance we fail to see. If the Bill is democratic enough for Keir Hardie and Philip Snowden, it ought to be democratic enough for Mr. Lloyd George. When the Old Age Pension scheme—as a speaker in the Park reminded us—was before the

House, there were those who opposed it on the grounds that it was not sufficiently broad and comprehensive. "No, no," said Mr. Lloyd George, "my friends, that won't do; I recognise your little game. You want to make my Bill so big that it won't go through the door." To remind the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the present juncture of this fact is particularly timely, since within the brief period of its passing the Pensions Act has been extended to those who have been in receipt of Poor Law relief. If Mr. Lloyd George needed telling, we would tell him that an extension in whatever direction the great mass of public opinion would direct would inevitably follow the passage of the Women Occupiers Bill. If we waited until Mr. Lloyd George's "year or two" proposals came into operation, the youngest of us might be eligible for old age pensions. Now that we know our Lloyd George as we know our Churchill, we trust him as little.

The greatest surprise was expressed in the Lobby at Mr. Lloyd George's action, but nothing the nimble Chancellor could do would surprise us. The political outlook has been definitely changed by the happenings of the past week, and the Conciliation Committee are alert to the dangers that are surrounding them, and not all Mr. Lloyd George's persuasions nor all the *Daily News*' assertions can alter the fact that the Conciliation Committee stand firm in their resolve to press for facilities this session.

Humane Mr. Churchill.

Since he cannot win the good opinions of honest people, Mr. Churchill is now playing to the boy-burglar. We pass over his attentions to ourselves, for it is evident that by including reforms dealing with women political prisoners this objectionable young man is hinting that it will not be his fault if the militant agitation has not to be renewed once more. But the joy and the gratitude of the youthful Apache will compensate him for the righteous anger of all decent women at his recent performance in the House. Lectures and concerts—perhaps Mr. Churchill himself will sing at them; joy of joys!—for convicts; pleasant military drill for rowdies, users of bad language, and breakers of lamp-glasses. It will not be Mr. Churchill's fault if there is a sound lamp in the city, or if the pathway is allowed to respectable people. As long as the rowdy is under twenty-one he can do anything he likes, and one conjures up a vision of the youthful hooligan having one last glorious bout on the day preceding his twenty-first birthday—an orgy of glass-smashing and swearing. It is distinctly rough on the elderly rowdy, who will look back wistfully to "sweet one-and-twenty." To combine official power with the human touch is the aim of this wonderful young man. But lest youths under twenty-one would not find Mr. Churchill out, we recommend them to take warning by the *volte-face* which the Home Secretary performs at decent intervals, and not be surprised if they are presently condemned by statute to penal servitude for life for indulging in the most ladylike expletive. We have no quarrel with the reforms themselves, but we have a distinct quarrel with the man who seeks to make them. We suspect some axe to grind when great principles of mercy and humanity are exploited by the Churchills of the country.

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Summer Activities.

Every worker in the Suffrage movement must have recognised during the last few weeks the most encouraging increase of interest, due in part to the Second Reading debate of the Women's Suffrage Bill and in part to the aggressive opposition of the Anti-Suffrage League, which is uniting the women as never before. We must avail ourselves of this enlivened interest to push the general propaganda of the League, and the holiday season should be utilised more than ever for carrying the gospel of justice to women through the length and breadth of the land. It is, therefore, particularly desirable that every member going on vacation should send her name and address to headquarters, when she will be put in touch with local and visiting members at the holiday places selected. It does not follow that any member will be expected to work very hard, but a little friendly co-operation and assistance is often of such great service to the cause that no conscientious and sincere Suffragist is justified in withholding it.

It is hoped that within the next week or two a number of holiday centres will be formed. At present arrangements have been made for Suffolk and Sussex, and members visiting these parts of the country are requested to send in their names. It should also be noted that the caravan, under Miss Marguerite Sidley, is passing through St. Albans, Luton, Dunstable, Hockliffe, Woburn, and Amptill, and members visiting these places or having friends there are urged to do their utmost to make this interesting campaign a success.

Hyde Park Demonstration.

Sincere thanks are due to all those who took part in the Women's Freedom League section of the Procession and Demonstration. Short notice rendered the organisation of this extremely difficult, and its success was entirely due to the generous and untiring support and enthusiasm of our members and friends. The arrangement of the Procession itself once more demonstrated Miss Edith Craig's wonderful skill in pageantry. We are also grateful to the Provincial Branches and Centres for their co-operation. Delegates came all the way from Swansea, Manchester, and even from Scotland to swell our ranks.

Pageant of Great Women.

Thanks to the enterprise of Mrs. Harvey, Bromley, Kent, is to be favoured with two performances of the Pageant in about six weeks' time, and a preliminary meeting is to be held on July 30th at Brackenhill, Highland Road, Bromley, Kent, at 3.30, to meet Miss Edith Craig and to arrange details. The Pageant will have over ninety performers, and members with histrionic ability willing to assume character rôles in this magnificent entertainment are asked to attend the meeting or at least to send in their names at once.

Acton.

It is proposed to form a live and active Branch for Acton, Chiswick, Kew, and district. It is hoped that every member having friends in this part of London will help to make this known. If names are sent to the office personal calls will be made locally. Miss Henwood, of



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153, St. Alban's Avenue, Chiswick, has kindly consented to act as Hon. Secretary.

"The Vote" and Literature.

Thanks are due to the devotion of THE VOTE sellers, who have done splendid work during the last few weeks. The influx of strangers and visitors to London just now should be utilised to increase the circulation, and it is hoped that there will be no slackening in present efforts. Members willing to help are asked to communicate with Mrs. Snow at 1, Robert Street. Literature sellers are also informed that many new and interesting publications are on sale, and they are asked to volunteer to Miss Hicks, our Hon. Literature Secretary.

Press Work.

There is a good deal of Press work to be done in connection with the League, and any member with journalistic ability and ambitions willing to help is asked to communicate with the undersigned.

Office Hours.

As the London headquarters are now open until nine every evening, except Saturdays, friends are asked to call whenever they can. We have always something new and interesting on, and are glad to see every sympathiser.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

CARAVAN TOUR.

On Monday and Tuesday good meetings were held again in Watford at the Market Place and at Station Road. The interest was greater than before, and collections and literature sales were even better. We had promised ourselves a farewell meeting on Wednesday, but heavy rain prevented this. Several visitors found their way to the Caravan, and a bright little tea-party took place, in spite of the disappointing weather.

On Thursday we came on to St. Albans, and found a delightful pitch for our "house." A charming view of great fields, farm lands and dwellings, and wooded lands greets our eyes as we look out of our windows, while the song of the lark makes us fancy we are miles from town. After securing our pitch we were too late to advertise a meeting. However, on Friday we had an enormous crowd in the Market Place—about a thousand people came to hear us and to see us—for St. Albans has never had a Suffrage meeting before! As is usual in such cases, there was much astonishment at finding two quiet, ordinary sort of women, who made not the slightest attempt to hit a policeman, but conducted their meeting with good humour and order. The boys were rather noisy, and some men supporters came forward and insisted on good behaviour. Literature sold well and the collection was good. As Saturday was market day a meeting was not possible. We received and paid visits from and to local sympathisers, and in the evening took all our VOTES out to the market, and in quite a short time were sold out. Here again our reception was most encouraging, and many a kindly word and many a wish for the success of our cause made us hope for great things from the ancient town of St. Albans.—MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

MRS. HOLMES.

With very great regret we have to announce that Mrs. Holmes is seriously ill, and will not be able to resume work for a considerable time. The doctor has given instructions that she must not receive or write letters.

Some silver belonging to Dr. Patch, who is "sold up" every year owing to the fact that she refuses to pay taxes, was auctioned at Hard's Auction Rooms, Junction Road, Highbury, on Monday. A protest meeting was held outside, when Mrs. Manson, Miss Benett, and Miss Lightman spoke on the injustice of the Government denying women citizen rights while insisting that they shall pay for the upkeep of the State. A tax resistance meeting will be held at Highbury corner next Saturday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, when Mrs. Despard will speak.

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THE GREAT DEMONSTRATION.

On the forty-fourth anniversary of the day when the men tore down the railings in Hyde Park, and generally gave violent effect to their desire for enfranchisement, the women marched for the second time into this historic spot in peaceful lines to record their insistent demand for citizen rights even in the limited form of the Conciliation Bill. The park railings were torn up this time, too, it is true, but by the authorities to give easy entrance to this great army of women. As the two great sections of the Procession swept in from the Marble Arch and Hyde Park Corner, met, and turning in orderly detachments, sought their own platforms, it seemed as if their meeting symbolised the union of all those twenty societies which demanded the passage of this Bill as the smallest possible measure of justice this Session. The Procession has been described by one great daily as one of the largest and most imposing which the cause has ever inspired, and by another as "the most momentous that London has ever seen," and if it had not had to be broken up into detachments to admit of entry into Hyde Park under the rules which guide traffic in that great area it would have been even more striking.

IN THE PARK.

The crowds were very varied. Park Lane gave hostages to the Suffrage, and women in filmy Parisian gowns were seen shoulder to shoulder with the velvet-clad lady from the New Cut, both of them in their several ways lending colour to the scene. Men of all classes and parties stood cheek by jowl in the crowd, and, unlike those who almost swept away the lorries two years ago, they listened with evident attention to what the speakers had to say. The feeling of the audience at every platform was entirely with the speakers, and when the resolution was put, out of three or four hundred people—the average at the platforms, though some speakers had considerably more—there were at most only four or five dissentients. Of rowdiness there was none; the chalking of the pavements had only inspired the honest citizen, whose voice is essentially that of public opinion, with the desire to come and hear. That public opinion is out against those who would break up the Conciliation Committee and deny the smallest possible measure of justice to the women, was evident last Saturday. When London is on holiday it has only gibes for those who would reason with it and talk seriously to it; but on last Saturday London gave up its half-holiday and came out to listen to arguments, some of them dead earnest, some of them witty, some of them heart-moving, but all of them based on an elemental demand for citizen rights phrased now in definite form that this present Bill shall have further opportunities in this present Session. And every crowd at every lorry paid the speakers the tribute of attention and of an almost unanimous vote for the resolution. Later on the secularists, the expounders of new doctrines and the explainers of old, the individualists, the altruists, and the wordy tub-thumpers who congregate in the precincts of Marble Arch would have their knots of listeners; but if any of these apostles of strange doctrines came early to the park he must have envied the arguments which swept clean of pedestrians the usual lingering ground near the Arch and of idle sightseers the forest of chairs near the Achilles Statue. And not one man cried out, mopping his brow, like the mythical elector conjured up by Lord Hugh Cecil, "This is no woman's work!" as he watched that splendid, gallant Protest Pageant sweep in through the great gates of the park.

THE PLATFORMS.

Around the forty platforms, from which there were 150 speakers, crowds of varying dimensions assembled according to the oratorical reputation of the speakers. People came and went around the different lorries, the inner circle being generally constant to the one chairman, while the outer circles varied in their allegiance. Mrs. Despard had one of the largest and most enthusiastic audiences, and with that power of drawing the best out of the crowd, as she does out of her followers, she held, under the charm of her kind, brave voice a great course of men and women, who laughed, cheered, agreed, or groaned as our leader willed them.

At another platform Mrs. Billington-Greig gave trenchant politics in her clear, convincing way, and retained the interest of a large and attentive audience. The Rev. Dr. Anna Shaw, with her curious grim humour, collected a numerous attendance around the American platform. Lady Constance Lytton, who chaired at Platform 30, had a great number of hearers. She dealt with the position of the poor working woman in the home, who had to carry out the State's ideas from an entirely male outlook on the upbringing of children. It was high time, she declared, that the Government did its duty and made Mr. Shackleton's Bill law. Mr. Laurence Housman spoke at the Men's League platform, and held a large crowd. He said that the democracy had shown itself by many signs ripe for the measure. At the Irish platform Colonel Arthur Lynch, M.P., and Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington, M.A., were the chief speakers, and several of the Irish members listened to them among the crowd. Speaking from the University platform, Sir Victor Horsley said that the question was not one of mere academic interest, but one that was going to affect the prosperity of the whole nation, because it would introduce a long-wanted improvement in our system of government. We did not want to have sociological necessities criticised by one sex. Mr. H. N. Brailsford (Hon. Sec., Conciliation Committee), the Recorder of Burnley, and many other well-known people also spoke. From the conning tower the bugle gave tongue for the resolution at 6.30, and from it, says the *Manchester Guardian*, "the whole thing seemed curiously remote. You heard the rustle of voices and saw the swaying figures of the speakers, and got no more than a vague impression of mighty numbers." At every platform the resolution was passed with an overwhelming majority, and at some platforms with a fervour which had a premonition of the possible sacrifices those who supported it might yet be called upon to make.

THE PROTEST PAGEANT.

Of the two sections of the Procession the Eastern, which advanced into Hyde Park via Piccadilly, was the larger. When drawn up on the Embankment there was a long line of women stretching from Blackfriars to Westminster Bridges, and another line drawn up near Whitehall. This had the great colours of the N.W.S.P.U., which had undertaken the organisation of the Procession, in front, and was marshalled by Mrs. Drummond.

As in the former Procession, every branch of human industry which finds women votaries, from the medical woman to the sweated worker, was represented. Most of the processionists wore white, and many of them, particularly those with our sections, were without hats, merely winding scarves around their heads, which preserved the Oriental idea of the section. All along the route the crowds were kind to us. They were not as numerous as on our last march, for most of them had already gathered in the park in the large triangular space bounded by the Serpentine, the Bayswater Road, and Kensington Gardens. Outside Hyde Park Corner the crowd assembled about an hour before the Procession passed, and when it came by, to the rousing challenge of the "Marseillaise," the symbolism of the great army of prisoners, the sweet sound of the wind bells, the mimic gates of Holloway, the light standards, with their coloured favours, the pennons in green, white, and gold, the waving trophies of green branches borne by many of the marchers, thrilled in a curious way. An army of men marching under the orders of a War Department, whether to war or to manoeuvres, is a moving sight, but an army of women rankers moving under the inspiration of the spirit of freedom, marching five abreast, individually incongruous perhaps, but homogeneous in their numbers, line after line, detachment after detachment—this is the greatest sight of all, and has the spiritual call that only an army of peace-lovers roused to wrath can have. Following their banners, flags, and pennons, lightly fanned by the breeze, they marched. The artists' group came behind the prisoners, and their ribbon-tied palettes and quaint dress were a pleasing sight. Amongst the actresses—always the best-dressed group of all—with their long rose-crowned staves, the crowd recognised many old and new

favourites. Contingents of musicians, Fabian women, the Men's Committee of Justice for Women, the New Union for men and women, the New Constitutional Society marched in a solid body, following one another with banners flying. The Colonial and Foreign contingents were very imposing; the flags of New Zealand, Canada, Australia, U.S.A., Sweden, Norway, Holland, South Africa, Germany, and France came next, well-known women walking with each. Miss Roosevelt, a cousin of the ex-President, Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, mother of the Duchess of Marlborough, and one of the leaders of the Four Hundred in New York, and the Rev. Dr. Anna Shaw were noticeable figures amongst Americans. On the French bonnet was "Ni Plus, Ni Moins, Bon Espoir," and with this section the French governess to the Queen's children walked. Irish pipers headed the Irish contingent, with the harp displayed on green and two girls in Claddagh cloaks leading the way. Double bands separated the detachments, and mounted police, looking as if they enjoyed the proceedings, also headed each detachment. Pharmacists, sanitary inspectors, dwellers in the Hampstead Garden Suburbs with waving green branches, gardeners and florists, sweated workers, teachers, civil servants, clerks, typists, business women, and Constitutional suffragists, displaying their red, green, and white colours, all swept along the route. And then came the green, white, and gold of the Freedom League, Mrs. Despard leading; our banners, with their great emblems and the scroll, "Dare to be Free!" borne by the breezes; and the prisoners, each with Holloway banners, being led by Mrs. Billington-Greig. Our colours met with their usual welcome, and the picketers in particular received an ovation. The John Stuart Mill banner, bearing the likeness of an honest Parliamentarian, has peculiar significance just now, and as such was greeted with cheers. A great number of handsomely decorated carriages followed, displaying the colours of many suffrage societies. Wheeling into the park the East Procession met the West, with its great Roman standards and banners, the new one, designed by Mr. Laurence Housman, having pride of place. For device it bore a prison gate, surmounted by an olive branch, and a dove, with a sprig of olive, flew against the bars; below were the words, "The light shineth in the darkness and the darkness comprehended it not." Women graduates, women writers, tax resisters, the Suffrage Atelier, gymnasts, teachers, and many others, most of whom took part in the Procession on the 18th, walked in the Western. In all, about 12,000 women walked under several hundred banners, a great number of them famous women, but the majority were normal, everyday women in many ranks of life, whose only claim to attention was not that they had great or outstanding talents, but that they contended against the same difficulties as men in similar rank of life.

W. F. L. SPEECHES IN HYDE PARK.

We are unable to give all the speeches made at our platforms owing to lack of space, but all were splendid and inspiring.

Mrs. Despard's Speech.

Mrs. Despard, who spoke at Platform 7, had a strikingly enthusiastic reception. Women waved their handkerchiefs, men cheered and took off their hats. For a good many seconds this continued, and when there was silence our President began:

Thank you very much for your kind and warm welcome. This is not the first time I have spoken in Hyde Park. Many years ago I first took my stand here to speak on the Eight Hours Day. Think of that. Men take an enormously long time to get things done. I think with women's help they would get done a little more quickly. I am here now on the women's platform. I want you all to understand that this is not in any way because I am anti-man. I should be very ungrateful indeed if that were the case. I am here because we want to bring about a more natural state of affairs—that men and women should be together in the State just as we are together in the family.

Now, my friends, first of all I want in the name of the League of which I have the honour to be President—the Women's Freedom League—to welcome you here, to tell you how very glad we are to see you, and how heartily we thank you for coming to Hyde Park to-day. I suppose that I am getting a little tired of demonstrations for the Vote. I rather hoped the time would come soon when we should be able to get it and other good things without demonstrating so much. I hope the time will come when justice will be realised and understood, and I hope



[Barratt's Photo Press.]
MRS. DESPARD, CARRYING ARUM LILIES, LEADING THE W.F.L. CONTINGENT.

that the next time I stand on a women's platform here it will be to rejoice that the first step has been taken, and that some women have been enfranchised. Mind you, I am going to be quite frank. I don't think so much of this Bill before the House of Commons now. ("Quite right!") Yes, but we must take what we can get. I suppose beggars cannot be choosers; and we are beggars just now, though I hope we shall be choosers by-and-by. There are some men, you know, who rather like women to be beggars. Now I say that the right and true thing is that women and men of all classes, of all degrees, and all occupations should be able to go together to give their vote for the candidate they consider the right one. But our opponents think otherwise, poor men! Mr. Smith says that no one has a right unless the State gave it to them. What is the State? I longed to ask Mr. Smith to give a definition of the State. I will give you my idea of the State. Of course, I am only a woman, and have therefore a very limited intelligence. (Laughter and cries of "No!") Well, I am the State, and you are the State, my brothers and my sisters. We are all the State, for we are all one. The State is one, society is one, just as the body is one. The body, you know, has many living cells; but it is one; and we are all members of one body. The State has begun to say, and very loudly, that this piece of justice ought to be done.

We don't know what the Government is going to do; but public opinion is getting pretty strong in England about certain things. The Labour Members in the House of Commons are in certain senses far better educated than the others. I am not speaking of the education which Cambridge and Oxford can give, but of the education that is to be gained in the University of life. Some of these Labour Members, I say, have had a very high education there. They have behind them an enormous number of voters, who do not as yet realise their power, but are beginning to do so—are beginning to give a certain push to the Government. They are asking for certain things to be done. They are calling on the Government to press forward Poor Law Reform, to war against disease, so much of which could be prevented, destroyed, if the people had proper conditions under which to work and to live—proper food, proper sanitation. The people are beginning to say that if we could do away with some of this commercialism which besets us, we should have the chance of leading healthier lives. They might do away with some of the horrors of lead poisoning. I know something of that. I have seen it; and the death of some of those poisoned by lead is a terrible one. Women are subject to this disease. There need not be any lead poisoning at all. There is a material from which pottery can be made without it; it is rather more expensive, but with it the pottery would be quite as good, quite as beautiful. Public attention is being called to the use of this deleterious substance, and a number of rich people are considering the matter. They say it is rather worse for the women than for the men, that they will have to take their courage in both hands, will have to prevent any woman from working in this department of pottery manufacture. I suppose they consider that the lives of the men are not so precious as those of the women. But if the people were only strong enough and knew how to use their power, they would say: "We will not have lead used at all in this work!" You can get measures brought into the House, but the difficulty is to get them passed through into law. There are so many party difficulties, so much Parliamentary procedure to block their passage. Is it not time that women should interpose, that women should say, "These things ought to be done, and must be done, for we are dealing with the people, the people you boast so much about?"

A man once said to me, "I am against Woman's Suffrage because I am a Democrat!" Poor man! He did not know the meaning of democrat or democracy, which is, as you know well, the rule of the people by and through the people for the people; and it would be a funny people if there were no women. You wouldn't like it, and the race would not last long. Life is dual right through: man and woman go to make the race. Without women there would be no race at all.

The Antis have sent out some of their signs to-day. Not women, but men—poor-looking men—carrying sandwich boards on their backs informed us as we came along that women do not want the Vote. That was very interesting to me, and I am sure it will be interesting to you. I will tell you what these

Antis have been doing. Some very distinguished people, most of them with titles—my Lord this, and my Lady that, his Grace the Duke of Something, and so forth—have resolved to take action against us. I am sorry to say that, although they are so distinguished, they are getting a little frightened. Where does the difficulty come in? Fancy these titled and responsible people being frightened of women! It is because they believe that when the women get what they ought to have perhaps they may lose some of their privileges. That's it, my friends. They are bringing their money together against us. They have appealed for £100,000, and say they have already nearly one-sixth of this amount—£13,000. And what are they going to do with it? They are going to bring all the responsible women together—we are not responsible, you know, so these distinguished men tell us—well, all their responsible women into a great representative meeting, in which these responsible women will be called upon to shout—if they can shout—"Women do not want votes!"

Let us see who are at the head of these interesting people. Two of their fighting men are—I am sure you have heard of them—Lord Cromer and Lord Curzon; and there is reason for this. Both these men have had to do with subject races, have spent a great part of their lifetime in Egypt and India. Do they really think that the women of England are a subject race and can be treated as such? We are out to enlighten them on

ships, to certain death. But no attention was paid to the matter. The Government of the day was so busy, and the session was near its end: it could not possibly bring in any Bill. What did Plimsoll do? He made a row, such a row in the country that they found time to pass his Bill. They can find time to pass our Bill if they will, and I hope they will do it. You may think this is hoping against hope. You may know Mr. Asquith very well. I sometimes thought I knew Mr. Asquith, but after reading some of his speeches I thought I had not known him at all. Until he has decided in this matter we are doing all that can be done, and we are going to ask you to pass our resolution, and I want you to pass it, not in a languid way, just holding up a few hands; I want you all to hold up two hands, if you will, and pass our resolution with acclamation, so that there cannot possibly be any doubt about it. I think you will. (Loud cries, "Yes; we will!")

The voices of those who met us in the streets still ring in my ears. Many of those people I have known for years, and most of these I have known as those who have suffered from the conditions under which they live. I hope no one here in the crowd is satisfied with life as it is lived in this great country. There are hungry women and children in the streets of this great country. Yes; and women who have to sell their very souls on those streets because they cannot get bread enough without



[Barratt's Photo Press.]
IN HYDE PARK, SHOWING CROWDS ROUND TWO (OUT OF THE FORTY) PLATFORMS. AT THE DISTANT ONE MRS. DESPARD IS ADDRESSING THE MEETING.

this point. Believe me, my friends, there is something stronger than wealth, something stronger than mere physical force—it is conviction, deep conviction that our cause is right and just. Nothing can long withstand such a conviction and such enthusiasm as we have. We are absolutely convinced that what we desire is right, that what we desire is for the good of this great country. Money is nothing against the faith we have in our own cause. We can stand our ground. We do not know what is going to happen; but we do know that we can stand firm. In a day or two we shall know what Mr. Asquith's decision is; shall know, when Mr. Asquith sees that the people desire this question settled, whether he will give facilities for our Bill, because it cannot pass without these facilities. In a few days we shall know; then we shall know what our course is to be. If he once more refuses to meet our demand we must gather ourselves together; we have our plans ready. (Cheers.) We shall then call upon our sisters and our brothers—(Great cheers)—to carry them out with us. I know the men of London very well. They are no cowards, and will not stand by calmly and see women ill-treated because they are weak. Meanwhile we are asking for your help now. Make known your conviction that our cause is just and that we want this question settled now. We say now, NOW, NOW is the accepted time for Mr. Asquith's salvation. He will have to appeal to the country soon. Does he want all the women against him, including even the Liberal women, for they, too, have begun to revolt? There will be no salvation for Mr. Asquith then. We advise Mr. Asquith to be wise in time, to give facilities for this Bill, and let the voice of the House of Commons be heard. It is all very fine to boast about your representative government, to talk about your democracy, and your really great House of Commons. I assure you that a private Member of the House of Commons has as little effect upon what is to be done as you have. ("Quite true, true!") Your private Member has no weight. Do you remember the wonderful Plimsoll? I remember the stir he caused throughout England. That man came to the House of Commons, told them that our sailors were being sent out to sea in rotten

doing so. Is that the sort of country we have a right to be satisfied with? No, it is not; and it is not until the home element is implanted in the Government of this country that we can alter this. That is what we are out for. The *Standard* says, in effect, Why cannot these ladies be content? They can find good work to do. There are municipal affairs, and then they have their homes to look after. My friends, I hope that no one is or will be entirely satisfied while so many of our brothers and sisters have no homes to shelter them. I say we want the home element in the State. Take an ordinary home. The father goes out to earn money, and the mother will look after the housekeeping and the children. The father may save a little money, and may say to his wife, "We ought now to make a little more show; I should like fine pictures about me, a bigger house, and perhaps some servants." His wife, if she is a sensible woman, will answer, "Yes; we might make a bigger show, but are you quite sure we can afford it? The children must come first, you know. They must have a good education, and they must be well started in life." Now that is our view. John Bull has been accumulating wealth and is wanting very badly to make more show. We say the health, the education, and the future of the children should be looked after first. (Loud cries of assent. The bugle sounds.) Now, my friends, that is the signal for the resolution to be put. Remember what I have asked you. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

The resolution was carried with loud acclamation, men and women holding up both hands as suggested by Mrs. Despard. Some men threw up their hats, others waved them, and the women were almost as excited. There were three dissentients only.

The resolution moved at all the platforms simultaneously received that the Conciliation Bill has passed its second reading "by a majority larger than that accorded to the Government's Veto resolutions," and the Government was urged to give further facilities for passing the Bill into law within the present session, and so "to obey the will of the people as expressed by their elected representatives in the House of Commons."

(Continued on page 164.)

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD., 148, Holborn Bars.
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SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1910.

THE LAST RALLY.

The work before us is the work of the last rally. We are on the immediate edge of victory. Our first legislative success is imminent. We must rally our forces and our friends for the end.

The great Hyde Park demonstration with its forty platforms, and preceded by the two marches through London streets, is the first act of this last rally. It proved to us, it proved to the enemy, that the friends of Votes for Women are answering to our call, and that they will place the Conciliation Bill upon the Statute Book this session. We know now that the last rally will lack nothing that is needed. We shall find no failure of the earnest support we have won among the masses of the people. There will be no lack of willing workers among the thousands in the ranks. We shall find no tardiness and no lack of generosity in the response to the appeal for such adequate financial support as shall carry us triumphantly over the eleventh hour. We are told by those who know best that there is a clear possibility of the Conciliation Bill becoming law in the autumn sitting of this session. We feel that we can seriously say that we shall make that possibility into a probability, and that probability into a certainty, before the end.

The attitude and arguments of the opposition during the Second Reading debate exposed, in conclusive fashion, two things. They exposed the wakening sense of consternation felt by the Anti-Suffragists at their own weakness as compared with our strength, and they established the impossibility, even under such crucial conditions, of the production of any logical or reasonable arguments against us. The speeches of the Anti-Suffragists were either a series of exploded assumptions and fallacies or a succession of contradictory inconsistencies. These men were in deadly earnest, and laboured with much effort to produce something of weight, and they produced nothing better than chaff—rags and tatters of antediluvian arguments—the decaying rubbish of antiquated prisons long destroyed. This was their best. Whatever else the Second Reading debate failed to prove, it proved one thing—it proved that there is nothing to fear from the prejudices of the avowed Anti-Suffragists. Their present weapons are the antiquated ones which have been used against us for all time, and such shreds of plausibility as they once possessed have long ago perished in the fires of ridicule.

The more interesting phenomenon is the revelation of the weakness of our "free and independent Press." The relaxing of party discipline within the House of Commons when the Government granted two days for the Second Reading debate appeared to the usual party journal as an extraordinary proceeding. Though it has always been known that the convictions of Members of the House of Commons on the subject of Women's Suffrage cut directly across the lines of party division, the concrete object-lesson was too much for the journalist. The Press appeared to be surprised that the Parliamentarian could have convictions other than those permitted by the party leaders. It may be that there is something to be learned as to the condition of the Press itself from this fact. One thing is obvious. The great outcry on the 14th that the Bill was shelved was undoubtedly a cry of surprise at the serious temper of the House of Commons. The reference of the Bill to a Committee of the whole House was made the most of and exaggerated by journals which are apparently so free from conviction and so dependent upon private political direction that they had to take refuge in this harbourage until the usual direction should be forthcoming.

While there is now a decided improvement in some directions—for it is at last dawning upon the commercial

intelligence that if women are going to win it will be well to be on their side—there has also been a hurried gathering of the forces to misrepresent the Bill and thus reduce its public support. When one sees the widespread nature of this attempt one is really filled with amazement at the rally of forces required to kill a Bill already "finally shelved."

We have nothing to fear in this last campaign from the avowed enemy. The Anti-Suffrage Society's appeal for funds need alarm no one. The money it requires will not be forthcoming, and even if it were, those behind the movement are not capable of doing as much with the huge sum they ask as the Women's Freedom League alone—leaving out of account the other societies—can do with its yearly six thousand. As a matter of fact, the average Anti-Suffragist effort appears to yield us a steadier harvest than it yields to its promoters. The Anti-Suffrage Society is a most important, if unconscious and unwilling, ally.

The real danger of the eleventh hour comes in a more insidious form. It is the democratic dodge—the "Young Radical" opposition. From other sources we need fear nothing; from this source all real danger comes, and against it we must be prepared. Those who are responsible for the right-about-face of a certain part of the younger Radical Members have failed in their first effort. The plot to kill the Bill on its second reading was a signal failure—a failure that has recoiled upon its promoters. But they will not sit with folded hands. We may expect to meet the effects of their less open work as we move about the country holding our demonstrations among the rank-and-file Liberals, both men and women. We must be armed against this danger. We must present a clear statement of facts against their vague generalisations. We must show the innate reasonableness of the measure for which we ask. We must expose the shameful political trickery which, on the pretence of securing votes for more women, seeks to deny votes to all.

This is our task. The last rally is upon us. We must respond to the call. Every member must be approached, every district must be called upon to pass emphatic resolutions. Money and service must be given even more generously than before. Let there be no delay. Take up your task; send your cheque to-day. There is but a short hour left, and within it we can snatch the victory!

TERESA BILLINGTON GREIG

MRS. DESPARD'S APPEAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE VOTE.

1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

SIR,—The Anti-Suffragists are appealing for a fund of £100,000 to carry on their agitation, and one-sixth of that sum has already been subscribed. We are not in the least surprised. It is only necessary to read over the names of the signatories to their appeal (by far the larger proportion of them men) to understand that it will not fall upon unheeding ears. These strong, highly-placed, and wealthy persons are anxious, by the crushing power of their privilege, to throw us back where we were—to cause once for all a collapse in the woman's movement. How exceedingly simple they are in spite of their worldly wisdom!

First, we would have them know that there is something finer than titles and stronger than wealth. It is conviction. It is enthusiasm. These people may have forgotten that it is possible for a little one to become a nation. Then as to money! We are many; they (I say it advisedly) are few. Let the many realise the power of the many in the one, and neither money nor goodwill nor devotion will be wanting. They are raising £100,000. Shall we of the Women's Freedom League fall behind them? Assuredly not. We appeal for a fund—the larger the better—and we know we shall not be disappointed. Will the women who know what is at the back of our agitation and of their opposition—the women who are determined not to be defeated by money and privilege—send their contributions to me at the address below, and we will soon show that ours is no engineered agitation, and that it is going on until justice is done?—Yours faithfully,

C. DESPARD,

President, Women's Freedom League.



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Edinburgh.—33, Forrest Road.

Another week of hard and enthusiastic work has culminated in a very successful joint demonstration; successful in spite of most unfavourable weather conditions. During the week chalkers, bill distributors, and speakers were busy out of doors, and two more members—Misses Jessie and Nannie Brown—took chairs at open-air meetings. In the shop Mrs. Gibson superintended the making of pennons, and, with Miss Jacob, saw to all decorations, banners, &c. The pennons were copied from those used in the London procession, with the appropriate substitution of a thistle for the circle bearing the letters W.F.L. As in London, they formed a most effective feature of the march.

Despite holidays and the absence from town of many of our members, there was a very good muster at the foot of the Calton Hill, where Mrs. Bell marshalled our section. Many of our members on holiday came in for the occasion, and we had also with us enthusiasts from Glasgow, Dundee, and Dunfermline. VOTES, badges, and literature found a ready sale. There were hundreds of spectators when the colour-bearers of the National Union, the W.S.P.U. and the W.F.L. walking side by side, led the way to the summit. Very large crowds gathered around the beautifully-decorated platforms of these Societies and of the University Union, and although the rain came on at this juncture, the various speakers were able to retain the attention of a great proportion of their hearers till the end. At our platform Mr. Easson, of the Men's League, took the chair, and the speakers were Miss Eunice Murray, Miss A. B. Jack, and Miss Madge Turner. The resolution, put simultaneously with that in London, was carried by a "tremendous majority." The *Evening Dispatch* sums up its account thus: "There was every indication that the women's movement in Edinburgh is backed up by a large and steadily-growing body of enthusiasts." Such a statement is the best reward of those who have worked so hard to make the demonstration a success.—HELEN McLACHLAN, Assistant Secretary.

Glasgow.

CLYDE CAMPAIGN—Rain has to a certain extent interfered with our meetings this last week, but, with the exception of one at Dunoon, those we have been able to hold have been very successful. At Kinn, on

Monday, Miss Gibson took the chair and Miss Shennan spoke, and on Tuesday, at Dunoon, Miss Shennan held her own admirably against the interruptions of a noisy crowd, incited to mischief by two "intelligent voters" who had partaken too freely of what a sympathiser in the crowd aptly described as "mixed drinks." In spite of the fact that we were rushed from the Castle Hill, where the meeting took place, we were able to sell a fair number of VOTES and badges. A lady in the crowd was so incensed at the language used by one of these "intelligent voters" that she came up to support us, and spoke so splendidly that the crowd laughed the man out of the meeting. Everywhere we find practical proof of the sympathy and understanding that Votes for Women is drawing forth.

At Blairmore we had a very enthusiastic meeting, many of the audience coming up after the meeting to express their appreciation of the speeches. Mrs. Leggat, of Duart Tower, gave us hospitality, a kindness that was much appreciated.

At all these meetings Miss Gibson and Miss Shennan have spoken, and the Misses Connor from Glasgow, and Miss Mary and Miss Eva Jolly from Edinburgh, have helped splendidly by chalking, selling literature, and collecting.

Our headquarters during August will be at Ayr. Will anyone who can help in any way communicate with me at Leawood, Albert Road, Gourock, N.B.—MADGE TURNER.

BRANCH NOTES.

London Branches Council.—1, Robert Street, Adelphi, Crystal Palace and Anerley District—149, Croydon Road.

Interest in Votes for Women is increasing in this neighbourhood, as is evidenced by the large crowd which collects at our open-air meetings on Monday evening at the tram terminus, and at times the sympathy of the audience is clearly marked. Question-time is always popular, and sometimes lasts for over half an hour. Practical proof of interest is shown by the fact that the sale of THE VOTE usually numbers three dozen. Miss Jessie Fennings is chief seller, and in VOTE week disposed of 127 copies, sixty-seven being in this neighbourhood at three open-air meetings and one and a half hour pitch selling. The speakers on July 11th were Mrs. Toyne and Dr. Macpherson, and on July 18th Miss Ethel Fennings and Mr. G. Warre Cornish, all of whom had a very good reception.—E. M. F.

Hornsey.—8, Church Lane.

At Hornsey Fire Station on Monday, the 18th, was held the eighth open-air meeting, at which Miss Hicks, M.A., spoke. Chair, Mr. W. Hammond. A large crowd quickly assembled, and many fresh faces were noticed. The usual Y.M.C.A.s attended in a larger number, and asked the usual eighteen-years-old questions. The Church League for W.S. is urgently needed for their education. One man evidently mistook Miss Hicks for the Prime Minister, and repeated in quick succession: "Are you going to give votes to married women?" Another strange gentleman was heard to say (*re* the Y.M.C.A.s), "If those boys had half the intelligence this lady has, they would do."—M. S. S.

East Anglia.—Miss C. Andrews, 160, Norwich Road, Ipswich.

Ipswich.—160, Norwich Road.

Mrs. Hossack kindly gave us the use of her garden for a meeting last Thursday afternoon. There was a good attendance, and Mrs. Bastian, who was the speaker, delighted her audience by the clear way in which she expounded Parliamentary procedure. She showed up the weaknesses of Parliamentary machinery, and the devices resorted to for party purposes. Mrs. Gordon has been indefatigable in selling THE VOTE. Will any friends willing to help at any of our East Anglian seaside resorts kindly communicate with me?—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

Lowestoft.

On Monday evening a pleasant garden meeting was held at Oulton Broad. Mrs. R. Worthington, from the chair, impressed upon her hearers the necessity for unremitting, untiring effort at this present juncture. Miss Anna Munro, who spoke instead of Mrs. How-Martyn, dealt with the Conciliation Bill. A vote of thanks closed the proceedings. On the invitation of Mrs. Farbrother, a drawing-room meeting was held at her house the next day. Mrs. Pinder, the secretary of the Lowestoft Suffrage Society, presided over a very interested audience. Miss Munro again dealt with the Bill and general principles of Women's Suffrage. A number of questions were put, literature sold, and collection taken.—ANNA MUNRO.

Visitors to Cromer and district can get THE VOTE at Munday's Library, Church Street, Cromer.

West Sussex.—Easebourne Vicarage, Midhurst.

On Thursday evening, in spite of lowering weather, some members of the branch ventured a walk of four miles to hold a meeting at Cocking. As is usual, the audience increased with the darkness, and towards the end the number of attentive listeners was very gratifying. For about an hour I attacked some of the arguments used by our opponents at the recent debate in the House, and then Miss E. Cummin delivered a spirited address, based on "Liberty, Fraternity, Equality." Miss Winter urged the sale of THE VOTE and was successful in disposing of all she had with her. Badges were sold, and a fair portion of the audience remained to see us depart.—ANNIE N. ROFF.

HYDE PARK SPEECHES.

(Continued from page 161.)

Mrs. Billington-Greig's Speech.

Mrs. Billington-Greig was the chief speaker at No. 8 platform, where Mrs. How Martyn and Miss Anna Munro also spoke. In the course of her address, Mrs. Billington-Greig said:—We are here to-day—Suffragists of many societies—Suffragists holding many diverse views with regard to organisation and on many other matters—united in one universal demand to have the Conciliation Women's Suffrage Bill saved and carried into law this session. We have been told for many years that this question was not one of practical politics. We have been told that the many Second Readings that have been carried by such large majorities were mere complimentary divisions, which counted as nothing in real practical legislation, and that we should have to wait a very long time before we could get any measure of ours dealt with seriously in the House of Commons. Some five years ago, or less, we determined to bring this question to the front as a practical one, to break through the barrier of pretended friendship and courtesy which had been erected in the House during the previous twenty years, and I do not believe that anyone who regards the present position, who notes the change that has come over the political situation, will deny that we have broken down that barrier and brought this question so far to the forefront of practical politics that now it is the foremost question there. (Applause.)

We have been told that there is not a shadow of a doubt that this Conciliation Bill—which has been worked for within the House of Commons by the Conciliation Committee formed by the efforts of our friend Mr. Brailsford—is shelved. If you get a Bill carried by such a majority, after two prominent members of the Government have "ratted," it is absolute folly to call that Bill dead. The Bill is going to survive. The Bill is going into the Statute Book, and those women to whom the Bill applies are going to vote at the next General Election. (Loud applause.)

The opposition of the ordinary anti-Suffragist is of no account whatever. It was typified to-day by a man whom we passed as we entered this park—some 12,000 women all out to show that we wanted the Vote. There stood this solitary individual carrying a placard which bore the words "Women DON'T want the Vote." The person who carried this message was not a woman, but a man paid by the hour to tell us that we do not know where we are. If the Antis get their £100,000 to carry on their propaganda against us, we—and our income last year was only £6000—were alone—leaving all the other Suffrage Societies out of the question—would be able to do more work than all the Anti-Suffragist Societies in existence—because we are inspired by the power and dignity of a great principle. The anti-Suffragist opposition in the House does not count either. If that had been the only opposition we had had to meet not only would the Second Reading have been carried, but the next motion also would have been carried by a large majority.

The force that is against us is not now the official Government, it is not the official anti-Suffragist, nor the vacillating coward who stayed away, but the Radical members of the Ministry and their supporters, who are determined to keep Votes for Women off the Statute Book by any means in their power. But for them the Bill would at this moment be passing the Committee stage, and before they rise for the recess it would have been on the Statute Book. They made an attempt, not only to endanger the Bill, but to kill the Bill altogether; but, as we know, that attempt absolutely and utterly failed, and only served to show those men, and other men within the Cabinet, that this matter is not to be played with any longer and that this Bill must go through.

I want to deal with the lines of opposition which the Radical ratters developed. They took four lines of action against us. They argued, in the first place, that this Bill was not democratic. I always wonder—and my wonder never grows less—that any man who votes under the present ridiculous, anomalous, and undemocratic Franchise laws can reasonably represent to us that because men have made a muddle of these matters in the past no women shall have Votes until the system of registration is made more perfect. There is no doubt that the present system is not perfect, but men themselves have made it imperfect, and in all probability the quickest way to improve it will be to let us have a hand in altering it. That argument is absolutely without principle and without justification, because they know that they are not themselves making the least effort to alter those undemocratic conditions about which they complain. As one goes through the country one hears of their meetings and one reads the papers, and one finds that, with the exception of a pious resolution, annually passed, they make no effort at all. They do not sign petitions, they never make a protest, they hardly mention Adult Suffrage at all until women make a claim for representation. As the leader-writer in the Manchester *Guardian* said, on the day following the Second Reading of our Bill, "Every Bill that is brought forward with the intention of giving women the Vote can always be described as 'undemocratic.'" If you do not want any women to have the Vote you can always say forcibly you do not want some women to be included until all women can have it.

The next line of opposition which these people took was that the Bill was not capable of amendment. I think that Mr. Lloyd George made himself very ridiculous when he stood up in the House and protested against the dictation of a Committee

of women, saying that the House could not have the terms of a Bill rigidly laid down for it by a Committee of women. I say that Mr. Lloyd George, had he been taking any interest at all in public affairs other than his own pet scheme of Welsh Disestablishment, would have known that the Committee was a Committee formed within Parliament to carry this Bill, not as a perfect Bill, but as a Bill which was a compromise, and which, although it did not give women what they asked for, they were prepared to accept rather than continue any longer to see women shut out. Mr. Brailsford would tell you that he went with his Bill to each of the Suffrage Societies and had to spend considerable time with those Societies before they accepted it. It was drawn up and drafted by men and only accepted by women as a compromise. Do you really believe that Lloyd George honestly wanted to amend the Bill? The very drafting of the Bill prevented the moving of half a hundred silly amendments which might have been moved if the Bill had been drafted in any other form. The Bill was so drafted as a protection against these motions, and Lloyd George wanted to get rid of that protection—not because he did not like the Bill, but because he knew that in five minutes he could draft amendments which would effectually prevent the Bill from passing in half a dozen sessions. He had another objection. This Bill was going to shut out the married women of the country, and who, they cried, should have the Vote if not the wife and mother? You know that the majority of people in this country to-day have not given a decision on that question. They have given a decision—and strongly—in favour of equal Suffrage, or in favour of women's Suffrage on the municipal basis—but on the other question of including all adults no decision has been asked or given. That being the case, Lloyd George and Churchill—(Hisses)—both knew that if they brought in a Bill that was going to include all married women, whether qualified or not, they were going the best way to kill the Bill. I am a married woman, and under this Bill I would at present be qualified, but the qualification which I hold will come to an end in the next three years. That means that if this Bill is passed I might vote once and never again until a wider measure was passed. But I do not care a snap of the fingers if I never exercise the Vote while I live so long as I know that the sex bar has gone, if I know that in all future Franchise laws they will have to include women, and that it will never again be possible for women, as women, to be shut out from a share in the Government. This feeling prevails all through our movement. A large number of women who have worked and slaved for this cause will not be qualified themselves, but they are working as strenuously to get this Bill passed as any who would be qualified. And if the passing of a Woman's Suffrage Bill only gave the Vote to one woman I think we should work for it still, as even that would break down the sex bar.

One other argument brought forward by the Radicals was that while many desirable women—wives and mothers—would be shut out, undesirable women, immoral women, would be included. It is impossible to argue that because some immoral women might vote therefore all other women must be excluded. The man who argues like that had better apply his argument in the House of Commons. I would like to ask Mr. Winston Churchill whether he would apply the test of morality to the Members of the House of Commons? Whether he would apply it to the male electors throughout the country? (Applause.) "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander"; but always in political life men have been very anxious to lay burdens on immoral women while they themselves have gone scot free. To those men who try to frighten the people from doing an act of justice we say, "Undesirable people vote now, and if you do not shut out the undesirable male you have no right to make a bar against the undesirable female."

These two Radical leaders opposed our cause; their opposition was based on prejudice and passion, and nothing else, but they failed. All they have succeeded in doing is not to shipwreck the Bill, not to shelve it high and dry, but only to make its progress a little less certain. They have only succeeded in postponing it from this part of the session back into the autumn. Even that is not yet certain. A few extra days added to this part of the session may still be used to pass the measure. (Applause.)

We have been asked, on several sides, whether we do not intend immediately to make a protest because further facilities have not been granted. We took upon ourselves to observe a truce firstly in order to prove that we could adopt peaceful methods, and secondly, to give the Government a chance to act without any more "undesirable violence," as the Press calls it, "justifiable protest," as we call it; the kind of protest that has brought us where we are now. (Loud applause.) After every protest of the kind which we have made during the last four years there has to come a period during which this protest can sink in, during which the slow-moving mind of the politician can grasp the lessons which have been realised and understood for years by the rank and file of the population. We have given time for this period, and we think that it has proved its usefulness, and we shall continue it so long as there is the smallest ray of hope left for the Bill. If, by any extraordinary use of Governmental power, the Bill be prevented from passing its logical sequences on its way to the Statute Book, then it is no mere threat, but a plain statement of fact, to say that there will be an outburst of protest, an outburst of rebellion on the part of the women which I hope will take an even more effective form than any in the past. (Cheers.) We are the last people

to want this, but if, by any means of treachery or trickery, the Bill is killed, then, in spite of our desire for peace, the only thing that is open to us is rebellion. Therefore, we are prepared, we are gathering together our forces, we are holding them in check only until such time as the decision is certain, and we hope that the message sent from this great meeting will make it impossible for Mr. Asquith to refuse the proper facilities, and once these facilities are granted then the Bill is safe. (Loud applause.)

Mrs. Nevinson.

In the course of a very witty speech, which kept the crowd in a state of great amusement, Mrs. H. W. Nevinson said:—One of the great maxims of the Liberal Party—Mr. Asquith is said to have written it as his favourite motto in a young lady's birthday-book—is that "Taxation without representation is tyranny." Yet when he is asked to give women taxpayers the Vote he will not do it. The Liberal Government has always said that government must always be with the consent of the governed. An ex-Tory Prime Minister had to remind them of this and to recall the fact that the women were not governed with their consent. The Liberals' great phrase is that there must be government of the people for the people by the people, and here we are, the people left out from our own Government. The Liberals say, "Trust the people," but when it comes to the women they say, "Oh, no; we cannot trust women, they might all vote Conservative!" But if they did the thing that is just and right they might even find some of us voting Liberal. Then some of the Antis tell us there will be a sex war. That does not frighten me. So long as all men are the sons of their mothers and all women the daughters of their fathers I do not think we need trouble about a sex war. It seems so ridiculous to imagine that all women might be found voting on one side and all men on the other. Even if it could be possible, well, you will have one million women voters to seven million men voters. There is also the physical force argument. Those who use it seem to forget that men who do not do the fighting do very important work. It is incorrect to suppose that men voters spend their time fighting each other and killing men: they do not go about like bulldogs. Last Saturday at the Antis' meeting a man reeled up to me, very drunk, and said, "If I shoved you, you would go down." I told him that the Vote is not given for shoving; it is given for tax-paying and for other qualifications outside that of shoving. We do not get the Vote because we can fight each other in Hyde Park. If we did some men would get it—not all; and some women would get it! That man thought it was given for shoving. So he shoved, but I did not go down. Some members of my family have rowed in the Oxford Eight. Again he shoved; then gave it up. A man came up and said, "You should give that man in charge; he assaulted you." I told him, "I do not think it is worth while, you see. He is drunk. Also, I won the shove!"

What we are asking for is that we should have representative government; and since the Conciliation Bill only proposes to enfranchise one million women and there are now seven million men voters I do not think our opponents need fear petticoat government. But then they are in great fear. Every speech that I heard last Saturday at the Antis' meeting began "We are afraid," "There is a great danger," or a similar phrase. (Laughter.) I thought Englishmen had a little more pluck. And when you ask them how the enfranchisement of one million women will be a danger to the British Empire they do not know. They say, "What will become of India if women have the Vote?" And on the very day that was said London newspaper placards announced "Sedition in India." Evidently Indians do not seem very comfortable under man's government. I asked a prominent Indian what he thought would happen if women here had Votes. He did not think it would make any difference to the people of his country, and said that no one had been so loved and respected there as the Great White English Queen. Indians would not care a bit if we were enfranchised. And even if they did, what has that to do with the Government of this country? This question must be settled, and we want it settled before we die. Now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation for Mr. Asquith. For him the day is far spent and the night is at hand.

Mrs. How Martyn.

Mrs. How Martyn dealt with the debate on the Bill in the House, discussing the main objections raised to the Bill. Still, she said, these objections of theirs are a lesson for us. It tells every woman quite clearly and plainly that it is her duty to belong to an organisation which demands the Vote. I believe many people take up the attitude that the Vote is going to be got for them, and that it is going to be got soon; but well we know that it is not going to be got without a great deal of work, and the appeal I want to make to-day to every woman here, and every man, is that they will do what is in their power to make this objection out of date, that they will join a Suffrage organisation as quickly as they possibly can. We have Suffrage organisations, I think, to suit every type of temperament. Those women who have courage and determination, who are willing to sacrifice more than a little—the place for these women, I say, is in the ranks of the militant societies.

Mrs. Borrman Wells.

Mrs. Borrman Wells, who was in the chair at Mrs. Despard's platform, when opening the meeting said:—Mr. Asquith says it is doubtful whether women really want the Vote. I challenge Mr. Asquith or anyone else to quote one single cause which can arouse as much enthusiasm as this has

aroused throughout the country, which can command so many workers, so much devotion as this one. Where is there a party which can arrange processions and demonstrations such as we have had? Where is there a party which has been served with such loyalty, such devotion, such enthusiasm as we can command?

AT OTHER PLATFORMS.

Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett.

Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett addressed a large and enthusiastic gathering from the platform of the Actresses' Franchise League, where Mrs. Madeline Lucette Ryley was chairman. Dealing with the great principle involved in the women's struggle for enfranchisement, she spoke of the way in which the women had presented their principle and stood by their principle. The opposition they had met with was no new thing, but only such as all great movements had to encounter. The people had tried to kill the greatest principle the world had ever known; they crucified the Leader of that movement, but the principle survived. She compared the young men of the *Daily Express* and kindred papers with the Scribes of olden days, and for our Pharisees had we not our Curzons, our Cromers, and our Asquiths? The division list in connection with the Women's Suffrage (Conciliation) Bill showed a perfect whirligig of Whigs and Tories. Mr. Balfour had supported the Bill on democratic grounds. He said he would vote for the Bill because he understood democracy to mean government by consent, because he felt that when a large and important section of the community began to feel themselves to be suffering under an hereditary disability it was the duty of the Government to deal with their grievance. "We have dragged women into politics," said Mr. Balfour, "and it is impossible to say to those women 'Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther.'" Winston Churchill had opposed the Bill because a number of immoral women might be enfranchised under it, and Lloyd George voted against it on the ground that it was undemocratic. But when Philip Snowden had said to these two treacherous friends, "If we amend this Bill will you then support it?" neither Churchill nor Lloyd George had answered a word. Mr. Haldane had said, "I shall support the Bill because there is a history behind it; everyone knows that women do not get the same wages as men, and I cannot help feeling it is because they have not the power in the State that the Vote gives." Mr. Asquith, said the speaker, has done nothing else but go about the country flinging "democracy" in the face of the people, coupled with the phrase "The will of the people must prevail." When he speaks of "democracy" he means "Government of the people for the people by the people"; yet this man, who preaches democracy and practises hypocrisy, is the greatest autocrat in this country. (Applause.) Lloyd George, speaking at the Albert Hall on the Veto Question, had said, "We have drawn the sword from its scabbard, and it shall never be put back into its sheath until we have fought our way through the House of Commons to the House of Lords and thence to the steps of the Throne." Mr. Asquith, speaking in the House of Commons recently, had said, "They who take the sword shall perish by the sword." (Cheers.)

Miss Christabel Pankhurst.

At Platform No. 4 Miss Pankhurst held a great crowd. After reading the resolution announced, that women were going to get their votes and were going to get them this session, she observed that she heard one or two say "Never." People had said "Never" to steam engines and had said "Never" to umbrellas, but we had got steam engines and had got umbrellas, and had very nearly got Women's Suffrage. She did not expect all the old fossils to be on their side, and far from fearing their enemies the Antis, she was grateful to them for the very good advertisement they were giving to the cause. Movements thrived on opposition, and they would surmount this obstacle as they had already surmounted one obstacle after another in the past. Men of the Lord Cromer type were always trying to beat back the tide of progress, and she would regard it as a bad omen if they believed in Votes for Women. Anything was better than apathy, and they regarded their enemies as blessings in disguise; the disguise was certainly a thick one, but not too thick for them to penetrate it. They were here to-day to fight for the Conciliation Bill, of which men of all political opinions were in favour—Unionists, Irish Members, Liberals, and Labour Members. The Bill was a perfectly fair and reasonable one. If women were considered qualified to vote for town councillors, why should they not vote also for Members of Parliament? The Bill was a democratic measure, since it had been proved that of those women enfranchised under it only 20 per cent. would be well-to-do women. The Bill was believed in by the majority of people in this country—under its conditions all sections of women would be given fair representation—and objections based on the ground of democracy were hypocritical.

It had been said that this was the thin end of the wedge, that if some women were given the Vote to-day Adult Suffrage would follow to-morrow. The same argument was brought forward when the Vote was given to working men in 1867. Women held differing opinions on this question just as men did, and there was no reason to think that by granting their demand Adult Suffrage would follow as a natural sequence. Another excuse put forward by their opponents was that women do not want the Vote. She would reply to that objection by quoting Mr. "Weathercock" Churchill, who at the N.W. Manchester bye-election had stated that he was convinced that women wanted the Vote and that there was a great national demand for the Vote to be granted to women. Unfortunately, being a politician,

he was unable to say the same thing twice. Men had tried to get justice from party politicians and had failed—when women got their Vote they would see to it that politicians acted honestly. Politicians told them the Bill was dead because they wanted them to give up hope. They were not going to give up hope. The question for them was, How were they going to get the Bill carried? They were trying peaceful methods to-day. It rested entirely with the voters and with the House of Commons as to whether women were driven to militant methods again. This great demonstration was being held on the anniversary of the day upon which the great outbreak of the men had taken place, when they had pulled down the railings of that very park, and remembering this, she asked, how could men quarrel with any methods which they had employed? If they still disapproved they should see to it that there was no necessity for the employment of any such measures again. We heard a great deal nowadays about the Veto of the House of Lords; the Veto on the House of Commons by the Government was the Veto to fight against to-day. The House of Commons had been promised opportunities for carrying the Women's Suffrage Bill into law, and a greater constitutional crisis was produced by a refusal to carry out this pledge than any caused by the House of Lords. Men as well as women were disenfranchised as long as Members were compelled to do what the Prime Minister wants instead of what the people want. Men were so sound asleep that they had suffered the House of Commons to become subject to the Cabinet. She would remind them of how Chesterton had described the present Government in the columns of one of the dailies only a few days previously, "Government by a clique—by a handful of men in the Cabinet, instead of by the men of the country." What would the men of 1867, who fought for the men of to-day, she asked, feel could they see how the Vote which they bought so dearly is treated as a toy and as something to be lightly esteemed and regarded? Democratic institutions were gradually passing away owing to the carelessness of the men and the votelessness of the women. The resolution they were asked to carry that afternoon protested against blocking of this description. They demanded facilities before the recess, and if not granted they would go on asking when the holiday was over. If Mr. Asquith refused to carry the Bill now he would find it awaiting him when he returned from his vacation. At their friends the Antis they were mildly amused, but the Government they took seriously, and it had got to take them seriously. The Bill was going to be carried, and that not only because the women support it, but because the men of the country support it too.

AT THE IRISH PLATFORM.

Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington.

Speaking at the Irish Platform, where Miss Shannon, B.A., of the Irish Women's Franchise League, was chairman, Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington, M.A., observed that the militant spirit had begun in Ireland and that the militant Suffragists in England were using the methods made famous by the Parnell party. Irish women were uniting with English women in this appeal for the passage of the Conciliation Bill, owing to the fact that until they had the Vote their hands were tied and they could give no help to their countrymen in those political issues which they had at heart. Mr. Redmond, the chairman of the Irish Party, had promised to receive a deputation from them in the House on Wednesday, and they hoped then to lay before him their reasons for desiring this Bill to go through and to appeal to him to use his influence with the Government to have the Bill given facilities. The majority of the Irish Members voted in favour of the Bill. Mr. William Redmond and Mr. T. Kettle both declared in the House that so firmly convinced were they of the righteousness of the women's demand that they would support it—even were it to retard the Irish movement—as a mere matter of pure justice. If the English and Scottish Members had the same pure love of justice as these men the Bill would have a speedy and safe passage into law.

On Monday evening, the 18th inst., a very successful meeting was held under the auspices of the Actresses' Franchise League at 60, Onslow Gardens, by kind permission of Mrs. Hylton Dale. The speakers were Mrs. Madeline Lucette Ryley, Mr. R. F. Cholmeley, of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, and the Countess Russell was in the chair. The speeches were followed very closely. Mrs. Ryley's witty and brilliant address was intensely interesting, and Mr. Cholmeley was most convincing, obviously acting on the audience and arousing their enthusiasm. A considerable amount of money for the Actresses' Franchise League was raised.

A very successful meeting was held in Gordon Hall, Gordon Square, on Tuesday, July 19th. Mrs. Finemore was in the chair, and was followed by Miss Coyle, whose speech dealt mainly with the Vote as a necessary economic protection for women.

At the weekly meeting of the Swansea Branch at Chez Nous, Sketty, Mrs. Cleaves was made the recipient of a handsome presentation in appreciation of her great services to the branch and in the cause of Suffrage.



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"PASS THE BILL" CAMPAIGN.

In spite of the downpour on Sunday afternoon a very large and enthusiastic crowd assembled in Trafalgar Square to hear what the Freedom League had to say. At times all that could be seen from the plinth was a forest of umbrellas, but no showers damped the spirits of the crowd which assembled and bought copies of THE VOTE and badges just as cheerfully as if the day had been fine. Since the attempt on the part of the two Cabinet Ministers to wreck our Bill the crowd has in every way shown its loyalty to our cause and its repudiation of the action of these two. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig, Miss Manning, B.A., Mrs. Borrmann Wells, and Mrs. Manson were the speakers, and there was great enthusiasm.

Mrs. Manson, who was in the chair and read the resolution, said questions would be allowed later, and briefly introduced Mrs. Billington-Greig.

Mrs. Billington-Greig's Speech.

Mrs. Billington-Greig said: Ladies and gentlemen,—This meeting has been called in support of the Conciliation Committee's Woman Suffrage Bill now before Parliament. All of you who know anything of recent history know that the most live agitation in the country for the last few years has been the agitation of women for the Parliamentary vote. A number of societies have been formed, large numbers of people have banded themselves together to demand this right of voting. Women demand it for themselves, and men have come forward to help women to get it. I know that even yet—in spite of the fact that Women's Suffrage Bills have been introduced, that one has just passed its second reading with a larger majority than the Government could obtain for its own Veto resolutions—in spite of all that there are still amongst our population a small number of ignorant people who think that in this matter the women are standing all on one side and the men on the other. But in case there are any of you here who know no better, I would like to point out that there are at the present time four societies of men alone banded together to help women to get the vote. In addition to these four societies of men there are several Suffrage Societies in which both men and women are members. We have amongst us the militant Suffragists leading the way, driving this Government to see the serious importance of this question; in spite of the Radical opposition in the Cabinet, in spite of pretended appeals by leading members of the Cabinet in favour of adult suffrage, in spite of those who have ratted on this matter and endeavoured to kill the measure, that measure has been carried through its second reading by a larger majority than the Government can obtain for its own Government measure. That proves that the measure is desired by the majority in the House of Commons. It proves more: it proves that at this present time they are in favour of a settlement of this question now—that they desire to get some sort of Women's Suffrage Bill placed upon the Statute Book.

There is no doubt any longer about it. The Government for the last forty years, first one party then another, has refused to allow any opportunity for Woman's Suffrage to be placed on the Statute Book. The Government has now been forced to give us two whole days to discuss the matter, and Mr. Asquith has had to give a pledge that he will give further opportunity for settling the question, if the House of Commons makes it will clear. Since that pledge was given it has been made clear that in the country and in the House of Commons there is a majority in favour of this measure becoming law, and we demand that the pledge given should be fulfilled, and that this measure should be granted the further few days that are necessary in order to place it upon the Statute Book. All that would be required for this are three or four days now, or three or four days at the beginning of the Autumn Sitting. It could easily be done, in spite of the Radical opposition of Mr. Churchill and Mr. Lloyd George, who ratted on this question when the Bill came into the House. (A Voice: "What about Mr. Smith and Mr. Austen Chamberlain?") My friend is trying to mislead you. All the opposition of the ordinary Anti-Suffragists counts for nothing in the House of Commons. If he knows anything about the House of Commons, he must know that these people do not count in the lobby against us, because we can outnumber them by two to one. We know, my friends, that this measure, which had a bigger majority in the House of Commons than the Government's Budget, can only be killed by the action of Mr. Churchill and Mr. Lloyd George. They tried their utmost to turn the Radical supporters against the measure by rattling at the last moment. We know that the ordinary opposition has been incapable of killing this Bill in the House of Commons. For twenty years the ordinary opposition has gained no ground. Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Churchill realised that the feeling in favour of this measure in the House of Commons was so strong and so determined that, unless some body of their supporters went dead against it, it was inevitable that this Bill would be carried through all its stages. They knew that, and I think my Radical friend in the crowd knows it. But the real position is this: We have four-ninths of the Conservative Party in the House on our side,

two-thirds of the Liberals, the majority of the Labour Party, and half of the Irish Party. All these are said to be in favour of the measure now before the House, so you see that gives your majority. Mr. Churchill and Mr. Lloyd George knew this, and because they knew this they tried their level best to kill it. But it is not killed yet. In spite of all their efforts I still believe that at the next General Election women will vote as well as men for the return of the members for the next Parliament. There is only one stage left for the Bill, and it is a very simple stage. If you do your duty by helping us to pass our resolutions, by helping us to bring pressure to bear upon the Government, this Bill will become law.

Yesterday there passed through the streets of London two large processions to Hyde Park, where forty meetings were held, and forty resolutions carried with acclamation to the effect that this measure should be carried through its final stages into law. While these thousands of women marched along we had a gentle reminder of the Antis' existence. There were two solitary men—paid men (not women)—bearing aloft a board with the simple statement: "Women do not want Votes!" That is about the measure of their numbers and influence. Those two poor, forlorn paid men knew more about the matter than those who paid them did. You have not had a bigger agitation for any rights of citizens in this country than the Votes for Women agitation since that of the Chartists, and of these two agitations I should say that the women's is much the bigger and stronger. The Chartist movement in England was preceded by a revolution in France, by a new conception of individual liberty and political rights, by the sounding of their watchwords throughout—Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. "The Rights of Man" had been published by Thomas Paine, so that there was no big prejudice against men asserting their rights. But we women had a very big prejudice to overcome. There was the custom of ages which forbade women to work for anything for themselves. Women had been taught to efface themselves, to do things for others, to submit in all things. This made the women's movement at the beginning so much harder, and therefore I am justified in saying that it is the bigger and the stronger of the two agitations.

I want to make no threats, but I do want to give a warning. You know that some of the speakers in the House maintained that the cause for which violence was used was condemned by that very violence. First of all I claim that very little violence has been used by us; but a great deal of violence has been used to us. There is some difference, you see. I claim, further, that no single Franchise Act in this country was carried without some demonstrations of violence. Take the Bills of 1832 and 1867. Violence preceded them; violence did not condemn the men's cause sufficiently to prevent those Reform Bills from becoming law, and, while the House of Commons is constituted as it is, it seems to me that violence will continue to be a better means of airing your grievances than constitutional action. I don't say I approve of violence. I merely state a fact, that violence seems to be a necessary preliminary to reform in England. There is behind this question of Votes for Women a great number of grievances crying for redress. No, my friends, I am making no threat; I do not need to. We have a great force behind this movement, and that force will be used to carry the women's demand into effect.

Miss Manning's Views.

Miss Manning, B.A. (Manchester), was also one of the speakers. In the course of her speech she said:—During the past month we have been making history. We have seen in London four great demonstrations in favour of the Conciliation Bill; in Manchester we have organised a great demonstration also. In different parts of the country men and women have met together to pass a resolution to this effect: We are asking you to support the Conciliation Committee's Bill for Woman's Suffrage. It is a very small Bill; it does not go nearly far enough; but it is the Bill that could command the greatest amount of support in the present House of Commons. The Conciliation Committee have been working since Christmas in the House; they have been working quietly, getting the approval of men belonging to different parties for this Bill. They have coaxed it into life. We ask that this Bill now be made law, to stop the agitation in the country which is growing stronger and more disagreeable the longer this settlement is delayed.

IN PARLIAMENT.

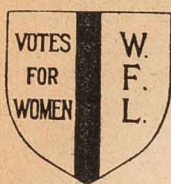
Lord Balcarras (U., Lancashire, N., Chorley), on behalf of Mr. C. Bathurst, asked the Prime Minister whether, having regard to the fact that the question of woman suffrage was a clear-cut issue which could not be confused with other political issues, that a serious, prolonged, and acrimonious conflict seemed probable throughout the country through the exponents of opposite views on the matter, and that there was a widespread desire to learn what were the views of the majority of the electorate before giving legislative expression to those of one section only, the Government would consider the advisability of taking, at an early date, the opinion of the country through the medium of a referendum.

Mr. Asquith: This is a novel proposal. All I can say at present is that the Government have not yet considered it.—*Standard*, Tuesday, July 26th.

The Eastbourne Branch hold meetings on three nights a week on the beach and have arranged for a literature stall on the front.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.



DARE TO BE FREE.

- Thurs., July 28th.**—Finchley (Tally-Ho Corner), 8 p.m. Miss E. Fenning.
Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. Miss Coyle and Miss Lucas.
- Fri., July 29th.**—Windus Road, Battersea Park Road. Mrs. Duval and others.
- Sat., July 30th.**—Thornton Heath Clock, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. H. W. Nevinson.
Preliminary Pageant Meeting at Mrs. Harvey's, 3.30 p.m., Brackenhill, Highland Road, Bromley, Kent.
Wandsworth Common. Mrs. Nevinson.
Battersea Park. Mrs. Nevinson and Mr. Yaldwyn.
- Sat., July 30th.**—Tax Resisters at Highbury Corner. 3 o'clock. Mrs. Despard.
- Sun., July 31st.**—Regent's Park. 12. Mr. T. Gugenheim.
- Tues., Aug. 2nd.**—Highbury Corner. Mrs. Mustard.
- Mon., Aug. 1st.**—Tram Terminus, Crystal Palace. 7.45. Miss Ethel Fenning and Mr. Bowden Smith.
- Thurs., Aug. 4th.**—Finchley (Tally-Ho Corner), 8 p.m. Miss Hicks, M.A.
- Sun., Aug. 7th.**—Regent's Park, 12 noon. Miss Hicks, M.A.
- Mon. Aug. 8th.**—Hornsey Fire Station.
- Tues., Aug. 9th.**—Highbury Corner. Miss Neilans. 8 p.m. Hampstead Heath. 8 p.m.

THE PROVINCES.

- Fri., July 29th.**—Ipswich (Wherstead Park), 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Manson. Chair, Mrs. Tippett.
- Wed., Aug. 3rd.**—"At Home," Easebourne Vicarage Hall, West Sussex, at 3. Speakers, Mr. Laurence Housman and others.

THE LIGHT SIDE OF THE PROCESSIONS.

The chief impression left on the mind after our two great Processions is the changed demeanour of the crowds. On June 18th the populace lined the route; yesterday they centred in the park, but on both occasions we were encompassed by a great crowd of witnesses, and never before have we heard so little abuse, so little cheap wit.

In the tube going down a hardened processionist was heard coaching some novices as to the stock replies to: "Go 'ome and get married!" "Go 'ome and mind the biby!" "Go 'ome and do the washing!" Never once did I hear the familiar exhortations. The picketers and the prisoners excited much interest, but the warmest welcome along the route was given to Mrs. Despard.

The University contingent was received with respect: "Hats off to the ladies!" "Bravo the women!" "Beat the men hollow, the dirty tykes!" "Oh, lidy, if I'm taken bad my missus shall run for you." Conversion comes in different ways, and on June 18th the stalwart legs of the four little girls, which marched so vigorously and marked time so punctiliously in front of the athletes' section, converted at least one man to our cause.

The banner of the tax-resisters with a picture of John Hampden and the inscription, "No vote, no tax," was very convincing. "Quite right; don't you pay it, my gal!" was the comment of the man in the street. On both occasions one heard the shout, particularly from cabmen and chauffeurs: "Bravo the women. Ladies, I love your pluck." The familiar sandwichman was seen exhorting us: "Prepare to meet thy God," and on the other side a message for the Cabinet particularly: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" A bottle-nosed man warned us that now was the time "for choosing 'usbands." "Take your choice, lidies; take your choice."

At Hyde Park Corner two Anti ladies stood feebly hissing, spending their strength in vain, for I think few heard them.

In the Park there were people enough to crowd up all the forty platforms and listen to 150 eloquent tongues of both sexes, and, in spite of keen competition for audiences, no cart was left out in the cold. A Cabinet Minister's wife was recognised, but was there a single member of the Government looking on at these demonstrations? This is the sixth great Procession since "the great mud march." The danger is that London may get to regard us as a pageant of music and colour, a mere Roman holiday, and forget our march is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual longing for Freedom and Justice.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

OPEN-AIR MEETING.

Mrs. de Vismes writes:—"Though a dull and cloudy morning, we were in our accustomed place again this morning at Regent's Park. There were a good number of people waiting for us. Mrs. Hyde and Mr. Bowden Smith held a very successful meeting for an hour and a half. During the week Miss Hicks, M.A., with Miss Law and Mrs. Nevinson and myself, held two very successful meetings on Thursday and Friday, in Hyde Park, at the fountain near the Serpentine—quite new ground. There was a good and interested attendance."

COMPARISONS ARE USEFUL.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

MADAM,—The Anti-Suffragists' appeal should bring gladness to our Treasurer's heart, contributions to the Cause, and curiosity as to how the Anti-Suffragists will spend the money. The laying down by one Power of a "Dreadnought" is closely followed by the laying down of two by another Power. The opening of the Cavaliers' coffers was the signal for the Puritan women to empty their workboxes. The "Thimble and Bodkin Army" found its sinews of war among the valiant and zealous in Cromwell's day. The big cheques of the privileged Antis can be "swamped" if every Suffragist will give "what she could."—Yours faithfully,

KATHARINE MANSON.

International Women's Franchise Club, Ltd.

Mrs. Sproson, owing to a family bereavement, is unable to fulfil her engagements during this week-end.

The Editor would be much obliged if all matter intended for next week's issue reached the offices of THE VOTE, 148, Holborn Bars, by the first post Saturday morning, as the office will be closed on Monday. The office of the W.F.L., Robert Street, will also be closed on that day.

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