

# The Common Cause

## THE ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF



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# Women's Suffrage

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REGISTERED AS

# SOCIETIES

A NEWSPAPER

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## Notes and Comments.

## The Women's Liberal Federation.

We look with interest to the result of the Women's Liberal Federation meetings which are being held as we go to press. The Liberal women can, if they will, secure the enfranchisement of women. It is a great opportunity and a great responsibility. Will they rise to it?

## The I.L.P. at Merthyr.

As we anticipated, the I.L.P. not only remained true to its principles, but is increasing in its enthusiasm for the women's cause. We publish to-day accounts from Mrs. Annot Robinson and Mr. Snowden which put us in very good heart with our election policy.

## Labour and the Women.

The "Labour Leader" alluded a week ago to the development of the policy of the National Union in the following terms:—

"All sections of the Woman Suffrage movement are coming to realise that their great hope lies in the growth of the Labour Party. So long as the political machine is absolutely controlled by parties which are divided in opinion as to the wisdom of extending the franchise to women the prospects of a measure with this end in view becoming law are very uncertain. Assured of the support of the Nationalists, Mr. Asquith can snap his fingers in the face of the Suffragists, and however earnest private members may be they are powerless under modern Cabinet rule. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has realised this, and last week at a special meeting of the Council—a democratic body consisting of delegates from 370 societies—it was decided to support Labour candidates, especially in constituencies now represented by Liberals whose record is unsatisfactory."

After friendly reference to Mrs. Fawcett's article in our last week's issue the "Labour Leader" goes on to hope our united efforts may gain political liberty for women and proceed to gain "that economic emancipation without which there can be no true freedom for either woman or man."

## The Malecka Petition.

Our appeal for signatures to the Malecka petition has met with a good response. It was stated in Friday's papers that 15,423 persons had so far signed. As we go to press the COMMON CAUSE signatures total 1,354. We hope that the remaining petition forms will be sent to the COMMON CAUSE office (2, Robert Street, Adelphi) by the end of this week.

It has been stated on Reuter's authority that Miss Malecka's sentence does not involve deportation to Siberia; but this is doubtful.

## Deep Dishonour.

We are sorry for the colleagues of Mr. Hobhouse. He is doing his best to lay them and himself open to the "imputation of deep dishonour" which Mr. Lloyd George refused even to discuss. At East Bristol, on May 31st, Mr. Hobhouse is reported to have said that the Plural Voting Bill had been difficult to draft because, in view of the length of the Welsh Church Bill and of the Home Rule Bill, it was clear that if the Government were to get the Plural Voting Bill through during the present Session, as they meant to do, the measure must be comprehensive and short. They hoped that before the end of June the Bill would have passed its second reading in the House of Commons, and that before the end of the Session it would have passed through all its stages in the House. If this means anything at all, it means that as far as Mr. Hobhouse is concerned, he sees with equanimity, nay, even with satisfaction, the covering with dishonour by its own act, of the Government of which he is a member.

Let us remind our readers of the specific pledge which Mr. Hobhouse is apparently anxious Mr. Asquith should break. On November 17th, 1911, Mrs. Fawcett asked Mr. Asquith: "Is it the intention of the Government that the Reform Bill shall go through all its stages in 1912?" And he replied: "Certainly, it is our intention. We hope to carry it through that year." This was the first of the four pledges to which Mr. George alluded, when he said that to suggest that the Government intended any sort of evasion was "an imputation of deep dishonour which I will not even discuss." And yet here is Mr. Hobhouse saying that with two such big measures as Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment on hand, an electoral measure must be "short," and suggesting that Mr. Harold Baker's Plural Voting Bill is the only one which will be prosecuted in this session.

## Mr. Hobhouse and His "Leaders."

Mr. Hobhouse on the same day waxed eloquent upon the iniquity of men "discarding or neglecting those who were

thought to be their leaders." What else is he doing? He said "when parties had agreed upon the settlement of a dispute between masters and men, both sides should keep to the agreement that had been arrived at. He knew how difficult it was for a leader to control large bodies of men, and how difficult it was for employers to control all their fellow-employers, but if either side permitted its members to break away from agreements, they rendered conciliation, arbitration and settlement by agreement impossible and did infinite harm not only to their organisations, but to the trade in which they were mutually concerned."

Quite so, Mr. Hobhouse. And when a Cabinet Minister breaks away from an agreement made by his Chief he makes settlement by agreement impossible; and when a so-called Liberal refuses to attend to grievances until people riot, he is digging the grave of the sort of Liberalism to which he belongs and will do "infinite harm" to his organisation and to the welfare of the people whose trustee he is. Women suffragists are sick of being taxed to the tune of £2,000 a year for the dishonour of being "represented" in Parliament by a man with a double tongue.

## Mrs. Osler and the Birmingham Liberal Association.

At a meeting on Home Rule held in Birmingham under the auspices of the Liberal Association on May 24th, Mrs. Osler in question time asked if the lecturer were aware, in making his learned and forcible appeal for self-government in Ireland, that the Home Rule Bill would only confer this right on half the Irish population inasmuch as it excluded all women from any recognition as citizens. She urged the support of the amendment which would be moved in favour of the use of the Municipal Register as the basis of voting for the new Irish Parliament, and pointed out that just as Ireland was protesting against being governed without her consent, so women were challenging the right of men to govern them without their consent.

The lecturer, Mr. Ryan of Dublin University, replied that he supposed the question would have to be left to be dealt with by the Irish Parliament when formed.

There was a good deal of obvious sympathy with Mrs. Osler amongst the audience, which chiefly consisted of men.

## A New Suffrage Paper.

We have received a copy of "The Irish Citizen," whose chief object is the enfranchisement of women. It is a penny weekly and will we hope do much to arouse interest in Irish women. The endeavour to suppress all mention of women in connection with the Home Rule Bill, the exclusion of Miss Hoey from the "National" Convention to which she was an accredited delegate, because she was a suffragist, and many other sinister symptoms that the old cowardly tricks will be played in Ireland as over here, make it of extreme importance that the women's movement in Ireland should have a paper of its own to tell the truth about women if others won't.

## Ladies Admitted to the International Law Association.

Dr. Baty writes:—"The International Law Association is an important organisation, founded in 1873, of lawyers and publicists interested in the Law of Nations. It is at present, by a favour said to be unique, holding its 27th Conference in the Hall of the Court of Appeal in the Palais de Justice, Paris, under the presidency of Maître Clunet. An interesting feature of Tuesday's proceedings was the election of Mme. Portalis to membership, the first lady to be a member of the Association since the decease, many years ago, of the wife of Mr. Henry Richard. Her election was made with much applause and without a single dissentient voice, and it was followed on Wednesday by that of Miss Lydia Pissargevsky, LL.D. Several of the highest legal authorities of Britain, France, Spain, Germany, Italy and the United States were present at the sitting, and Mr. Millerand, Minister of War, presented the congratulations of his Government to the Association on its forty years' work for peace, justice and civilisation."

## Masters and Men.

Sir Edward Clarke's report into the conditions which led to the London Transport Workers' Strike was issued by the Board of Trade on the 28th. Out of seven specific points raised, Sir Edward Clarke gave an open answer to one, two decisions against the men and four decisions in favour of the men. Since then the Masters have refused the Government invitation to a Conference which has been accepted on the other hand by the men. The Port of London Authority is ranged on the side of the masters.

## Property and Person.

A correspondent sends us two cases for comparison: On May 20th, at Wells, Harry Johnstone Jordan, for contracting five bigamous marriages and deserting his "wives" after robbing them, was sentenced to three years' penal servitude. On May 29th at Suffolk Assizes, George Gilbert, for firing a stack of straw (his third offence) was sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

## The B.W.T.A. and the Vote.

At the opening session of the British Women's Temperance Association Council at Newcastle on May 15th, a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was proposed by Mrs. Walter Runciman and carried. The B.W.T.A. has a membership of 155,000.

## The Sentence on the Suffragists.

Mr. C. C. Warden, one of the jurymen in the Conspiracy Trial of Suffragists, has written to Mr. McKenna saying, "In view of the jurors' unanimous recommendation of the prisoners to the clemency of the Court, I, in common with several of my fellow-jurors, was appalled at the severity of the sentence, and I would respectfully beg you to remit at least the further portion of the sentence."

Mr. Warden is endeavouring to get into touch with all the other jurymen, so that he may ask them to sign a petition expressing their desire to place on record

"our surprise and concern at the extreme severity of the sentence pronounced on the prisoners, notwithstanding our unanimous recommendation of the utmost leniency,"

and petitioning the Home Secretary to place the prisoners in the first division and shorten the term of their imprisonment.

## Status in Prison.

Mr. McKenna is most unhappy in his statements. We wish to exonerate him from anything worse than forgetfulness or extraordinary ignorance, but what does he mean by saying (as he did on the 22nd in the House) that "in no case have any of those prisoners (Suffragists) ever been asked to put on prison dress; in no single case has that been so"? Do we dream? Have we not seen photographs of Miss Pankhurst and Miss Annie Kenney in prison dress, and that for offences which were literally bagatelles to the present? Mr. McKenna should really read up the records of Lord Gladstone, which will, we imagine, be the wonder and mockery of ages to come.

Speaking with regard to the placing of the Suffragists in the first division, Mr. McKenna was cautious, but his tone seemed to indicate that he was very likely to do this. It is a very misplaced sense of dignity which would delay such an obviously right course.

## Legislation for the Feeble-Minded.

In our correspondence columns are two letters referring to our note last week on "Dangerous Powers." Any communication from one of such great experience and devotion as Miss Mary Dendy is deserving of the greatest respect, but we think she has misrepresented us in various ways. She states that the Government Bill "makes provision for both sexes equally"; we did not suggest anything else, but we did suggest that it would probably not be administered equally. We have a most vivid recollection of a speech made by a well-known magistrate, in which he acknowledged that the law with regard to offences against children was not drastic enough, but he added that it was no use at present making it stricter because men administered it and men would simply leave the stricter law a dead letter. In view of the well-known double standard in such matters it seems to us superfluous that Miss Dendy should suggest some sinister motive in our apprehensions or that the COMMON CAUSE is "lending itself as a tool" to any mysterious body of reactionaries. Into the question of whether it is easier to restrain male or female feeble-minded persons we did not go; but if it be the case that males are more easily restrained it is all the more a crying evil that they are not so restrained. If less is done for males it is largely due to the general notion that a man's liberty is a very sacred thing whereas a woman's liberty is negligible.

We never doubted the feeble-minded evil; we are perfectly aware of all that is said in Mrs. Bernard James' letter. It is unnecessary to impute ignorance to those with whom one differs. But with all deference, we submit that the extension of work like Miss Dendy's and the provision of public money for the purpose (which we would greatly like to see) is a very different matter from the enormous extension of State powers of compulsory segregation. When people see a fearful evil they are very naturally apt to cry "For God's sake let us do something—anything!" We dread this rapidly-growing passion

for compulsion, but we dread it far more in a social system such as we still have in England, where women are still told their concerns are only private concerns and all power over public concerns is to be left in the hands of the men. Every fresh law that is made takes power from women and gives power to men in our Man-made State.

## A Spur to Canadian Women.

If what was recently published in the Standard is really true, the demand for the vote among Canadian women will receive a great impetus. It is stated by the Ottawa Correspondent of the Standard that the Civil Service Commission has decreed that no more women shall be admitted to the service save as stenographers and typists. At the competitive examination recently held no female applicants were asked to qualify for general work, and the papers of those who came forward will not be serviceable.

Hitherto the Civil Service preparatory schools here have been very busy training girls as Civil servants, as there was little difficulty in finding them posts as women clerks and so on. Once women clerks were not accepted, but later a few were appointed, with the result that any needy woman who could procure a political pull was placed in the departments. Some who spent many years in the Civil Service as girls left and married, and are now back again through the loss of their husbands.

Men clerks have complained that positions which should go to the heads of families have been given to women who are in the service only to earn dress money. Some of the wealthiest people in Ottawa have women relatives who are clerks in the departments. So to prevent further crowding with women the commission, responding to an agitation from the men, has definitely banned women clerks.

## A Confused Candidate.

The answer given by the agent of Mr. Gibson, late Unionist candidate for South Hackney, will live long in that museum of ineptitudes which suffragists are collecting for the laughter of future generations. Someone must surely have been "cramming" Mr. Layland; he came out as pat as a schoolboy with his rote-learned phrase "sub-judice." But what on earth did he think it meant? Let us refresh the minds of our readers: Mr. Gibson "does not consider it politic for any candidate to express an opinion at this juncture, owing to the recent law cases on the militant portion of your organisation (this to a representative of the National Union! It is too funny!) being still sub-judice."

At that moment the three leaders of the W.S.P.U. were being tried for conspiracy and the question of their guilt was certainly sub-judice and therefore unfit matter for comment. But no one was asking Mr. Gibson whether he thought Mrs. Pankhurst had or had not incited certain persons to break windows; he was asked, as a candidate for Parliament, where he would be called upon if elected to cast a vote for or against the enfranchisement of women, to declare whether he was for or against, and he was apparently so muddle-headed that he could not understand the question. He is no great loss.

## American Women and Home Rule.

At its last meeting, the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association resolved that "the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association notes with regret that the right of Irish women to vote is not included in the Home Rule Bill as introduced, and hopes that an amendment will be moved and carried enfranchising women."

## Important Resolutions.

As we go to press we hear that two resolutions were passed by very large majorities on Tuesday afternoon at the Women's Liberal Federation Council Meeting, expressing appreciation of the support which the Labour Party had given to Women's Suffrage, and the opinion that the Liberal Government would incur serious risk of alienating the support of women Liberals if the Reform Bill was passed without the inclusion of women. Lady Aberconway said she wished that it was possible to maintain that other parties had done as much for the Suffrage as the Labour Party. Miss Baggallie declared that she had never been so much stirred in her life by any letter as by that of the Master of Elibank. "If he thinks," she said, "that he is going to nurse us on his knee, and pat us on the head like good little girls, he is mistaken. We are not children, we are grown-up women. He must be taught that we will not be mere scaffolding poles, but builders, and master-builders, too. Supposing a Reform Bill is passed without women being included, could any self-respecting woman stand again on a Liberal platform? I won't; I should work for the Labour Party," a statement which brought down the house and produced the loudest and most prolonged cheers that that day's session had witnessed.

## The A.B.C. of Women's Suffrage.

### THE PHYSICAL FORCE ARGUMENT AGAINST WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

#### THE ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS SAY :

"Voting is simply an expedient to show which side, being numerically stronger, is presumably best able to enforce its will," and they explain that "for coercive purposes men are the dominant sex," and "women cannot enforce their will and so they cannot rule."

#### BUT WE REPLY

that muscular force (for only if we limit it to muscle is the physical force of men greater than that of women who have more endurance and are longer-lived) has little coercive power—"One can lead a horse to water—twenty cannot make him drink."

#### PHYSICAL COERCION

weighs nothing when set in the balance against the MORAL POWER OF RESISTANCE.

You can burn a martyr at the stake, but all the physical force in the world cannot compel him to recant.

Do the anti-suffragists really imagine that if all the women of the nation rose in revolt against an unjust law the men could by their physical strength compel them to obey it? That they could never do, and, if they did their worst and

#### DESTROYED ALL THE WOMEN

(and they could not do that without many casualties on their own side) they would have destroyed themselves, for without the physical force of women there could never be another generation of men.

But the more moderate anti-suffragists may say: "We do not imagine any such extreme case; but we do foresee the possibility that women might try to

#### SCREW MEN UP

by legislation, to a higher level of morality than they were prepared to accept. And in this case the man would refuse to enforce the law."

This is true, but it is equally true for all reformers. Prohibitive legislation, too far in advance of average standards, always tends to become a dead letter. (Men have legislated to forbid the wheeling of perambulators on the pavement, but women have never obeyed and the regulation has generally been tacitly ignored by the police.)

That the

#### INEXPERIENCE OF WOMEN

when first enfranchised, may lead them to press for impracticable legislation, is possible. But they will learn, as the men do, by experience, how far it is possible to make people moral by compulsion. And they may even learn more quickly than men have learned that to remove the cause of an evil is better than to attempt forcibly to repress its consequences.

To imagine that men, as a whole, would resist legislation which women, as a whole, demanded, is to imagine a far greater difference between

#### THE IDEALS OF MEN AND WOMEN

than actually exists. As a matter of fact, the best men and the best women want practically the

same things. We may, indeed, challenge the anti-suffragists to name one reform which is demanded by men alone or by women alone. Good men no more want to perpetuate the

#### WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC

than do women. But there are some bad men, and many more who are indifferent and consequently very little is done. The influence of women, directed to a solution of the problem, will not conciliate the bad men, but it will rouse the indifferent, and suffragists have sufficient faith in the essential

#### DECENCY OF THE AVERAGE MAN

to believe that he will stand beside the women (as the working-men did by Josephine Butler), although, if left alone, he would never bestir himself.

We believe that the different point of view of men and women, where it exists, is largely the product of the political and social

#### SUBJECTION OF WOMEN

which has been as demoralising for the one sex as for the other. And we believe that with the fuller knowledge and better understanding of each other which will come to men and women when they stand politically and socially equal will come peace from the

#### SEX WAR

which suffragists are out not to foster but TO END.

#### WHAT NORMAN ANGELL SAYS.

It may be interesting, in this connection, to see what a man who has considered the place of physical force in the modern state without any reference to the woman question, has to say about it. Mr. Norman Angell, in his book, "The Great Illusion," which has been translated into almost every European language and circulated by hundreds of thousands, is dealing with the question of peace and war, and does not mention women's suffrage once. But he says:—

"The force which we shall use for our needs will be the force of intelligence, of hard work, of character, of patience, self-control, and a developed brain, and the pugnacity and combativeness, which, instead of being used up and wasted in world conflicts of futile destructiveness, will be, and are being, diverted into the steady stream of rationally-directed effort.

"Is it not somewhat childish and elementary to conceive of force only as the firing off of guns and the launching of *Dreadnoughts*, of struggle as the physical struggle between men, instead of the application of man's energies to his contest with the planet? . . . Force is, indeed, the master, but it is force of intelligence, character and rationalism. . . . In this domain, as in all others, intellectual force is replacing sheer physical force. . . . Our respect and admiration goes in the long run, despite momentary set-backs, to those qualities which achieve the results at which we are all in common aiming. If those qualities are mainly intellectual, it is the intellectual qualities which will receive the tribute of our admiration. We do not make a man Prime Minister because he holds the light-weight boxing championship, and nobody knows or cares whether Mr. Balfour or Mr. Asquith would be the better man at polo. But in a condition of society in which physical force was still the determining factor it would matter all in the world."

#### MOTTO :

Ideas, not force, rule the world.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the Office by first post on Tuesday.

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LIBRARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

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

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and book-stalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., giving the name and address of the news-agent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

### The I.L.P. Conference and Women's Suffrage.

By PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P.

The Conference of the Independent Labour Party has been held this Whitsuntide at Merthyr Tydvil. The Independent Labour Party is in a sense a separate organisation from the Labour Party. It was formed nineteen years ago for the purpose of advocating Socialism and independent Labour representation in Parliament and on public bodies. Mainly as the outcome of its efforts, the larger Labour Party was formed twelve years ago, which consists of federated trade unions and socialistic societies. While a part of the Labour Party, the I.L.P. (as the Independent Labour Party is familiarly known) has its own organisation and carries on its propaganda work quite independently of the larger body, with which, however, it works closely in all electoral matters.

The I.L.P. has from its inception taken a sympathetic attitude on the women's question. Votes for women figured in its earliest programmes. For some years there were very acute divisions of opinion in the party as to whether support ought to be given to a limited form of women's suffrage. From ten to five years back the Conference debates on this issue were the most exciting and vigorous of all the discussions. But the result was invariably the same. The I.L.P., while affirming its demand for a full democratic franchise, has favoured and supported the immediate extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as it is given to men. In recent years the minority which opposed what they called the "limited Bill" has quietened down, and practical unanimity has prevailed in support of any proposal which would remove the sex disability.

The Prime Minister's promise of a Reform Bill, made last November, aroused great interest in the I.L.P. The interest was evoked mainly by the prospect which was now opened up of securing the enfranchisement of women. The Executive of the party met and passed the following resolution which is sufficiently important to print in full:—

"That, in view of the Prime Minister's statement in regard to proposed franchise reform, the National Council of the Independent Labour Party insists strongly that no measure will be acceptable which does not include both men and women, and urges that proposals for franchise extension which do not confer citizenship upon women should be definitely opposed. The Council, therefore, calls upon the Government to introduce, not a Manhood Suffrage Bill, but a genuine measure of Adult Suffrage establishing political equality between the sexes."

The branches of the party, which number about 800, were urged to inaugurate a vigorous campaign in favour of the enfranchisement of women, and to make it clear that no Reform Bill would be acceptable which left out the women. About 200 demonstrations, apart from ordinary meetings, were held at which such a resolution was passed.

In view of the record of the I.L.P. on this question of women's franchise it was quite to be expected that the Merthyr Conference would show itself to be enthusiastically with the women. But I was not prepared to find such remarkable and genuine enthusiasm and devotion as were evident. For the first time the woman's question dominated the gathering. For

the Sunday afternoon before the Conference, the National Union had arranged a meeting to be held in the beautiful park which is situated on the hill above the town. Mrs. Annot Robinson had been in Merthyr for a day or two making arrangements for the meeting, and had received sympathetic help from the local people. The success of the demonstration was beyond all expectations. Before the time for the meeting to begin a thousand people were waiting on the crest, and when the chairman rose to open the proceedings twice that number were gathered round. Miss Ashton, who had come on from Bath, specially for the meeting, Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Despard, with myself thrown in, addressed this great meeting, which was wholly sympathetic and approving.

In the Conference Hall were mottoes and banners, many of which made reference to the women's cause. The first opportunity of raising the question in the Conference arose on the Executive's report, which made a reference to the resolution quoted above. On this I pointed out that the acceptance of this paragraph by the Conference would make that resolution the resolution of the party as a whole. The tone of the debate which followed was remarkable for its sympathy and quiet determination. Although this resolution committed the party to reject an extension of the male franchise which, it might reasonably be argued, would be of great help to the Labour Party, yet in that Conference of 312 votes only four hands were held up against that policy of self-sacrifice. The firm determination of the Conference not to take some advantage for the men while the claims of the women were ignored was as magnificent an act of chivalry and devotion to a fixed purpose as one could ever wish to see.

The I.L.P. is now as a party committed to the rejection of any extension of the male franchise which leaves out the women. The I.L.P. is the active and influential section of the bigger Labour Party. The I.L.P. policy will have an influence in stiffening up the trade unions on this matter. The main discussion of the Conference was upon a resolution in favour of the Labour Party in Parliament voting on all questions on the merits of the question, even if doing so involved the overthrow of the Government. The Conference decided against such a policy; but it was heartily agreed that the women's franchise question was of such outstanding importance that whatever happened to the Government the I.L.P. members must stand by the policy expressed in the resolution passed by the Conference.

### The Present Condition of the Suffragist Movement in Italy.

By MRS. MACFADYEN.

The feminist movement in Italy, or at any rate in Rome, has come to a critical moment. For some time there has been a good deal of disorganisation, partly in consequence of the war, and partly owing to differences of opinion among the advanced section of women. The masterly hand that guided and united all sections for a time has for many months been practically helpless, and now has been removed by death.

On March 9th there passed away the most notable figure in Roman feminist society—Donna Giacinta Martini. During ten years she has been a pioneer, and although for years she has been an invalid, it was felt that while she lived no other leader was possible. For the cause she loved with all the passion of her ardent southern temperament, she spared neither time, effort nor money. In high social station, both by birth and by her husband's position in Parliament, she was able to use influence in political circles and other powerful quarters; and it is chiefly owing to her that the subject receives the measure of respect and attention accorded to it. It will be remembered that the Parliament sitting in Rome in 1909 passed a vote of approbation of the principle of Women's Suffrage, and although by bitter experience we know how little such votes are worth in practical politics, still such a vote shows that the propaganda has entered on a stage beyond mere ridicule (itself a step further than utter disregard).

When I returned to Rome in November last I had the privilege of being taken to see Donna Martini, by Signora Nathan, the energetic wife of the Mayor of Rome, herself a devoted feminist. I shall never forget the few moments I spent by that sick bed. The Contessa could only gasp a few enquiries to me as I knelt by her side, and I felt it a cruelty even to call forth those few words which she spoke with such effort, that after every few syllables, she had to breathe the oxygen which alone kept her alive. She sent her greetings—when I should return to England—to English suffragists. My delayed return makes

these into a precious posthumous expression of fellowship from Italy's greatest woman leader in modern times.

She directed her nurse to give me some of the cards she had first printed so that a message from her should always speak of the cause to which she was devoted.

The day after her death the following tribute to her memory was written by the same friend quoted above, who is the author of the only Italian book on "Votes for Women."

Long before there was talk in Italy of "feminism" or "votes for women," Donna Giacinta had gathered around her a nucleus of elect persons.

There foregathered people of most contrary tendencies—opinionated socialists, ardent republicans and democrats mixed with sincere and religious clericalists.

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better argument against the extension of the vote to women than the stale old chestnut of her divinely appointed mission of darning stockings;

It seemed as if the disappearance from the scene of Roman feminism of this beautiful example of an Italian gentlewoman, who united the genius, delicacy and womanly sentiment which most adorn contemporary Italian feminine society,

The scission of the cord of union caused by the illness of Donna Giacinta, cannot but be aggravated by her death—it will be more difficult than ever to return to the concord of intention,

The Baronessa has described to me the moving spectacle formed by this wonderful woman, when, gasping and suffering she was carried in her invalid chair to take part in the Women's Congress held in Rome in 1908.

This gives the vote practically to all men, to the literate at twenty-one, to the illiterate after they are thirty.

The suffragists have not been altogether silent. A Memorial Meeting for the Contessa Martini was convened, and on May 8th a well-attended public meeting was held on the women's aspect of the electoral proposals of the Government.

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hygiene, education, etc. The Prime Minister, Gioletti, in opposing the suffrage amendment in Parliament on the 15th, spoke of the necessity of giving women a more assured position when Sweden will follow the example set by Finland on the one side, and Norway on the other,

Rome, May 19th, 1912.

The Swedish Riksdag and Votes for Women.

Interest in political matters is not particularly general or lively in Sweden, not even in the capital, during the session of Parliament, but Saturday, May 18th, was an exception to the rule,

Last year a much-extended franchise came into force, with the result that the Liberal and Social Democrat parties gained many seats in the Second Chamber, where they have an overwhelming majority;

It was not altogether without difficulty that I obtained a ticket of admission to the visitors' gallery in the Second Chamber, for the member to whom application was made, on hearing that it was an Englishwoman and a Suffragist who wished to be present at the debate,

The debate was closely followed by a deeply interested public, among whom were to be noticed the leaders of the Women's Suffrage party—those women who, by their untiring efforts, favoured doubtless by a happy conjunction of political circumstances, have succeeded in an incredibly short time in raising the question from mere theorising to the plane of practical politics—women who devote their time and talents not merely to this, but to social reform in many other directions.

The debate lasted for several hours in both Chambers, and the result of the voting was: in the First Chamber, 58 for and 86 against, a gain of 35 votes over last year; in the Second Chamber, 140 votes for and 74 against, a gain of 20 since last year.

but with the democratising tendency which for a considerable time has characterised legislation in social questions in the three Scandinavian countries, the time is within measurable distance when Sweden will follow the example set by Finland on the one side, and Norway on the other,

LILLIE ROWLETTE.

The Anti-Suffrage Handbook.

V.

The final sections of the Handbook are devoted to "Countries Having Woman Suffrage" and "Women in Local Government."

The assertion that "no real comparison is possible" is perhaps intended to cover the unreal comparisons which are made immediately afterwards. But we hardly find it a sufficient excuse for the worst of them.

The statement that "in every instance the percentage of female voters is very far below that of the males is not substantiated by any figures. I happen to have by me those for New Zealand, which show a slight variation at different times between men and women voters. For example:—

Table with 2 columns: Year, Men. and 2 columns: Year, Women.

The section on "Women in Local Government" states the qualifications necessary for voting and sitting on the various Councils and Boards. Not a word is said about the history of women in Local Government, with its astonishing record of powers taken away, sometimes after noble use, and restored, after long agitation, only in part or not at all.

The purpose of this particular Bill is to alter the qualification for election to City and County Councils in such a way as to enable more women (especially married women) to stand.

We are next informed that "the work of Town and County Councils includes" a long and imposing list of duties. The implication is that "Education," "Housing," etc., fall entirely within the sphere of women in Local Government.

"Ah! but a bad law well administered is better than a good law badly administered." The possibility of good laws well administered did not seem to have occurred to her.

The Handbook concludes with the figures of the "Canvassers of Municipal Women Voters." The canvass was taken:—

(a) By members of the League or paid canvassers.

Apparently the public was expected to be impressed by the figures obtained by paid canvassers. As they were not, the canvassers proceeded:—

(b) By reply-paid postcards.

No one knows who filled in the replies, and the questions were quite outrageously misleading. Our author, recognising this, is careful to suppress them, and merely observes that "the general form of question used was" a form which, after a long and patient investigation, I have never found used once. Even this question, however, carefully selected or composed for the pages of the Handbook, would undoubtedly suggest the idea of Adult Suffrage to the canvassed person. If she decided against it, her reply was then used as evidence against the Conciliation Bill.

The Anti-Suffrage Handbook is altogether a sufficiently nauseating little publication, and soon ceases to be amusing. But probably every losing cause produces a certain amount of this kind of thing, and when facts fail one, misrepresentation is the easiest weapon—for those who can stoop to pick it up.

(Concluded.)

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

#### NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

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

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

**Hon. Secretaries:** MISS K. D. COURTNEY. **President:** MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. **Secretary:** MISS GERALDINE COOKE. **Hon. Treasurer:** MRS. AUERBACH.

**MISS EDITH PALLISER** (Parliamentary). **Hon. Secretary to the Press Committee:** MISS EMILY M. LEAF.

**Telegrams:** "Voiceless, London." **Hon. Sec. to Literature Committee:** MISS I. B. O'MALLEY. **Telephone:** 1960 Victoria.

**Offices:** Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

#### From Headquarters.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY OF THE NATIONAL UNION.

The development in the election policy of the National Union has been very keenly taken up in nearly all parts of the country; there has been an immense demand for leaflets explaining the policy, and many societies are arranging special meetings for members with the object of having the policy explained. Signs are not wanting that the mere announcement of the intention of the National Union to promote the success of Labour candidates in the constituencies of unsatisfactory Liberals is already having its effect; and we believe that even those societies which were doubtful of the wisdom of adopting the policy immediately will be convinced by its results. It is obvious, of course, that an enormous number of constituencies, and especially those in the south of England, will be entirely unaffected by the decision of the Council Meeting on May 14th. Where no Labour candidate is standing, the National Union will pursue the policy of supporting that candidate whom it considers the best friend to Women's Suffrage. In this respect, the policy of the National Union differs from that outlined in the "Standard" of May 31st by the secretary of the Freedom League; it is to be noted however that, like the National Union, the League intends to leave tried friends unopposed, so that in constituencies where a Labour candidate is standing, the policy of the Freedom League will be identical with that of the National Union. This is a very encouraging fact, and we hope it points to a possible approximation between the election policies of the various Suffrage societies.

Owing to the absence from London of most of the members

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

(159, St. Stephen's House, Westminster.)

Demonstration in Trafalgar Square, Saturday, June 15th, at 3 o'clock.

Every suffragist in London will do her or his best to be present at the demonstration organised by the Men's League for Saturday, June 15th, at 3 o'clock, in Trafalgar Square. In response to invitations from the League, the following societies have signified their intention of being present officially:—Women's Freedom League, Irish League for Women's Suffrage, Men's Political Union, New Constitutional Society, Women Writers' League, Tax Resistance League. Many other societies have signified their approval of the demonstration, though they are not able to be officially represented.

A resolution will be submitted demanding the enfranchisement of women, and protesting against the treatment of political prisoners as common law-breakers. Mrs. Fawcett has shown very clearly that it is possible to hold strong opinions upon the stupidity of confusing the two kinds of offence, without in any way approving of the policy of breaking laws.

All suffragists are earnestly asked to make a special point of helping to fill the Square, and obtaining a conclusive and overwhelming majority for the resolution. The near approach of the Government's Reform Bill calls for immediate and continuous action.

Helpers of all kinds will be welcome. All societies are asked to bring banners and to send them by two o'clock to the Square.

of the Special Committee, it has not yet been possible to arrange for a meeting. The Committee consists of the following members of the National Union Executive:—The officers, Miss Ashton, Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Catherine Marshall, Mrs. Stanbury; others are being invited, and so far the following have kindly consented to join the Committee:—Mr. Brailsford, Miss Lees (of Oldham), Lord Lytton, Miss Julia Reckett, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mr. G. E. Streetfield.

#### RULES AND POLICY.

The National Union is publishing a new edition of the Rules and Policy, which will be ready at the end of the week.

K. D. COURTNEY.

#### Press Department.

The following account of Press work is sent to us from Miss Baretti, from the WEST OF ENGLAND FEDERATION:—

"The Press work of the West of England Federation shows much to encourage us. In particular, the Cheltenham papers are being most enterprising. The *Chronicle* gives a column once a month to both Suffragists and "Antis." *The Looker-on* and *Examiner* give a monthly column each to Suffrage news only, and the *Citizen* is friendly and gives good reports of all local activities of the Bristol papers. *The Western Daily Press* and the *Clifton Chronicle* are favourable and always ready to take insertions, while the *Times* and *Mirror*, though "Anti" by temperament and careful not to associate itself with the Cause in any way, will publish correspondence of any length and occasional short paragraphs.

Of the Somerset papers, the *Wellington Weekly News*, the *Burnham Gazette*, the *Clevedon Mercury*, and the *Bridgwater Independent*, can always be depended on for insertion; and have proved themselves very good friends, while the *W. Somerset*

LONDON SOCIETY OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES,  
NON-MILITANT. 58, Victoria Street, S.W. NON-PARTY.

#### PUBLIC RECEPTION TUESDAY, JUNE 11,

EMPRESS ROOMS, Kensington (High Street), 3.30 to 6.15 p.m.

Chair:—The Honble. Mrs. SPENCER GRAVES. Speakers:—The LADY FRANCES BALFOUR, The COUNTESS OF SELBORNE, rs. STANBURY, Miss FRANCES STERLING. DISCUSSION INVITED. SALE OF ORIENTAL CHINA AND ANTIQUES.

*Gazette* does not hesitate to insert Suffrage news when space permits. The *Bridgwater Mercury* is, I believe, "Anti" in policy, but will publish our news occasionally, and the effect of local effort is evident.

The Bath Press is still somewhat obstinate on the whole, *The Herald* only being favourable. The *Somerset County Gazette* will give good reports of local meetings but, judging by its leaders, is "Anti" in policy.

Of the Wiltshire papers, the *Salisbury Times* is friendly, but cannot accept regular paragraphs, but the *Wiltshire Times* and *Devises Gazette* will do so. The Wiltshire Press work suffers from the fact that much of the ground is as yet unbroken by our organisers. It is difficult to get an editor to pay any attention to us unless there is a local demand for Suffrage news in the area in which his paper is read, or unless we have been undertaking election or campaign work in the district. Local pressure is required; in the Forest of Dean Press work has been stimulated by Miss Waring, and will be carried on by Miss Morrison, and we are therefore hoping for an improvement in that district.

From Mrs. Finlay we hear that the SCOTTISH FEDERATION at present has 45 societies in its area, either fully formed or in course of formation, and these are so distributed that with efficient organisation about 200 papers should be supervised by the Federation, and it is hoped that eventually the entire general press of the country will be watched. Organisation of this work was begun at the end of January last, and Press secretaries or readers in 28 societies are already dealing with 66 papers, including all the big Scottish dailies. In most cases the secretary of the society undertakes the work, and the more important exceptions which from choice or necessity have attempted a more elaborate organisation for influencing and affording assistance to their Press are Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Greenock, Bridge of Allan, Kircaldy, Dundee and the Oradian societies. In all these more than one person devotes time and attention to the work, and reports show that in Edinburgh and Glasgow the subject is about to receive much further and fuller consideration than hitherto. Since the organisation was started, the attitude of the Press towards Women's Suffrage has come under review and a fair amount of information is at hand; in Glasgow the papers without exception are very cold towards Women's Suffrage. In Dundee the *Advertiser* favours the Referendum. *The People's Journal* is Anti and tends to identify the whole Suffrage movement with militant disorders. The *Courier*, on the other hand, is favourable. It lies, therefore, with the Dundee Society to bring this paper more prominently forward.

The editor of the *Glasgow Daily Record*, a Radical paper, is strongly in favour of Women's Suffrage, and is willing to print short and pithy paragraphs giving Suffrage news from all over Scotland. This is a halfpenny paper with a sale extending over the country as far north as Wick. The Edinburgh Society undertakes to look after 12 papers, which include some in Leith, Balkeith, Linlithgo, Boness, and Midlothian, and the work of Miss Crompton in Aberdeen has been most successful.

E. M. LEAF.

#### A CORRECTION.

We much regret a misprint on p. 121 in our last issue. The quotation from the letter of the Master of Elibank should have been "if the women's vote is to come at all, it will come through the *Liberal* (not Labour) Party."

#### Literature Department.

N.U.W.S.S., 14, GREAT SMITH STREET,  
WESTMINSTER.

#### ANOTHER NEW PAMPHLET BY MISS ROYDEN.

Miss Royden's new pamphlet has been a little delayed by the holiday, which we are glad to know our printers give to their employees at Whitsuntide; but it is now ready, and I hope everybody will buy it and not be deceived by the resemblance



**READY-TO-WEAR FROCKS.**

**DAINTY GOWN**  
(as sketch) in French Marquisette, finely tucked, trimmed with buttons and ruchings of own material, finished at waist with rosette of satin, and patent belt.

**49/6**

**Debenham & Freebody.**  
Wigmore Street,  
(Cavendish Square) London, W.

Famous for over a Century  
for Taste for Quality, for Value

of its cover to that of "Physical Force and Democracy" into the belief that they have it already. Those who look closely will see that even the cover is really different, and I hope they will notice that we have now got a much more satisfactory reproduction of Miss Lowndes's beautiful unicorn design. The inside is quite different, for whereas in "Physical Force and Democracy" Miss Royden dealt with the absolute maxims on which Anti-Suffragists find pasture, in this she writes of the hard facts which are the food of Suffragists. She gives lists of laws passed in countries where women vote, and shows how the trend of legislation in suffrage States is always towards the better protection of the child and the home. She shows also how the result of the experience of women's suffrage in one State leads to the desire for it among the women and the men of neighbouring States. Anti-Suffragists in the British Isles may terrify each other with vague prophecies of what will happen when women vote, but our Colonies and the American States which see what *does* happen are one by one enfranchising their women. It is the "logic of experience."

#### HOME AND STATE.

I regret that, owing to an error, the translation of Miss Selma Lagerlöf's "Home and State" has been spoken of as by Miss M. C. Gittins. As a matter of fact, it is by Mrs. Holmstedt, formerly Miss Ursula Gittins.

#### THE "ENGLISHWOMAN."

As it is the beginning of the month, may I remind members that the "Englishwoman," as well as the COMMON CAUSE, can be obtained from the National Union Literature Department, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster?

The "Englishwoman" has one directly "Suffrage" article in each number (this month the article is by Mrs. Fawcett), but besides this it is "inspired from the first page to the last by a desire for the enfranchisement of women," and probably no better tool for propaganda among educated people could be

## TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.

R. CROMBLEHOLME, Trade Manager.

**OUR POLICY**  
is to cater FOR

**ALL PARTIES**  
who can appreciate best work executed under Trade Union conditions at moderate prices.

SEND FOR ESTIMATE.









working women should not only join unions, but should fit themselves for administrative work in and insist on having their share. Women are terribly handicapped in this matter, not only by tradition, but by their own lack of time.

THE WOMAN WITH THE PACK. By Gertrude Vaughan. (W. J. Ham-Smith, pp. 92.)

"The Woman with the Pack," probably plays well (we have not seen it on the stage), if carefully acted, the part of the "Woman" requiring, as the author suggests, rather an impressive personality to hold the play together.

A. M. R.

Suggestions for a Literature Campaign.

Propaganda work by means of literature is a valuable form of Suffrage work and should commend itself to those who for various reasons cannot come forward as speakers or as officials.

It should also appeal to those who have little money to spend, for 1,000 leaflets can be obtained for 2s. 6d., and the successful, effective distribution of 1,000 leaflets will occupy the most energetic worker for a considerable time and will accomplish a vast amount of good.

Schemes for the distribution of literature should be based upon the fact that the people whom it is important to reach, and on whose account this form of propaganda is most valuable are people who do not particularly want to read about the Suffrage question.

A house-to-house visitation, or standing at a street corner giving leaflets to passers-by are obvious methods and are extremely valuable in working-class districts, more especially in country places and in towns where there is no good Free Library.

Better than street distribution at busy times to busy people is to provide people with literature when they want to read and can get nothing.

Let the worker visit the factories at the dinner hour especially factories where the hands live so far away that they do not go home at dinner time. She will find her leaflets greedily demanded and thoroughly read and discussed.

the meeting. People are in a more serious mood at such meetings than at theatres and more ready to study the leaflets intelligently.

Every member of the National Union should see that the waiting-rooms of her local station are kept well supplied with literature. Members of a society might take it in turn to look after this, and each might make herself responsible for a small country station in the area of the society.

There are other waiting rooms besides those in stations. We pass many an hour in those of the dentist, the doctor, the dressmaker. With the exercise of a little tact the local society can generally persuade these people to let the COMMON CAUSE or literature lie on their tables.

Then there remain special classes of people to be reached. The enthusiastic literature secretary will scan the lists of new literature published in the COMMON CAUSE and when she sees a leaflet for "Teachers" she will at once circulate it among the teachers of the town.

E. J. D. MORRISON.

Letters to the Editor.

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

Correspondents are requested to write on ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY.

VILLAGE MEETINGS.

May I, having just returned from North-West Norfolk, suggest to some of your members who, like myself up till now, have thought the only thing they could do for the Society was to help keep the rather dead-alive branch they belong to going, the really splendid work there is to be done in the villages and little towns?

If any two members, armed with a dinner bell, a couple of National Union flags, and a good supply of leaflets, would drop down in any place where there is no branch, and after spending the morning house-to-house visiting hold a meeting on the village green or at the town pump, I think they would be astonished at their own success.

It is not necessary to be a good speaker, the work should not wait till there are enough of them to go round. Any woman with a fairly good voice, and a fairly clear mind should be able to plead our cause.

I believe it is better to go where they are not known, because the villager will speak his mind to a stranger in a way he will not to the squire's lady, or any possible employer.

Of course sometimes splendid help is given from the bigger houses. In Heacham, when I arrived at 1.30, I met a very strong advocate of suffrage, who most kindly hired me a hall, took my chair, had the whole town billed for me, and gathered me an audience of three or four hundred men by 8.30 for a meeting.

Church Crookham, Hants. SYLVIA CLARE.

THE ANTI-SUFFRAGE STALL AT SHAKE-SPEARE'S ENGLAND.

Seeing your few remarks in "Notes and Comments" on above in COMMON CAUSE, of May 23rd, it has occurred to me that the following may interest your readers. One day recently a friend of mine (Swiss) went to the Earl's Court Exhibition. When going round the building she was approached by a "very nice-looking, pleasant lady," who asked if she would not sign a petition against woman suffrage.

MEMORIAL TO W. T. STEAD.

MISS WATKINS (Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Newton-le-Willows W.S.S.) writes in reference to Mrs. Cobb's article on the late W. T. Stead, that if it is desired to commemorate his work by saving a poor girl, this might be done by endowing a bed in one of the Church of England Homes for Waifs and Strays, and she suggests the Girls' Home at Waverley.

THE GENTLE ART OF PETITIONING.

I was staying lately with some friends, all strong Suffragists, and heard a story that is worth recording. My friend and hostess was in her laundry one day talking to her gardener's wife—who is the head-laundress; the conversation turned on Woman-Suffrage. A village woman who comes in to help was present; she listened attentively, and then said: "Well, now, Mrs. —" (mentioning a lady very active with anti-suffrage petitions) "called at mine the other day with a paper about this; I signed it 'cos she's a kind lady";—be she for or be she against?"

ENNIS RICHMOND.

DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE.

I would like to suggest that societies which embark on the task of distributing literature should be very careful how they set about it. I know that an idea exists that this sort of work is just the kind suitable for young and inexperienced workers—and that these youthful enthusiasts exist in large numbers and are thirsting to do work. My own experience is that though large numbers of such Suffragists abound, they are wise enough not to wish to be employed in such a way just because of their inexperience.

To get the full value out of a leaflet it should be personally given into the hands of some inmate of the house at which the distributor leaves it. Convulsion follows. Therefore I do most earnestly hope that local committees will not send any worker out, whether young or elderly, who is not able to give a sound answer to any question likely to be put to such a worker arising out of some statement made in the leaflet.

As a regular reader of THE COMMON CAUSE, I much regret the paragraph headed "Dangerous Powers" in this week's number on the proposed legislation for the feeble-minded.

I feel it must have been written by someone who has not had practical experience in dealing with the mentally defective, or the writer would not have spoken of the Bills [as legislation which might be used "against women."]

One imagines it would not be difficult for anyone who was distributing literature and who was stumped by a question to suggest that the questioner should come with her question to the next suffrage meeting, or if this were impossible, to write her question to the local secretary or to headquarters. It seems a rather disconcerting check on education to suggest that no one may recommend the reading of a book or a pamphlet unless she is qualified to pass an examination in it.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

As a member of the N.U.W.S.S., I feel sure there must be a convincing answer to the following question, which has been asked me more than once, and to which I have found it very difficult to give a satisfactory reply. I, ultimately, women domestic servants are to be paid the same as men domestic servants, won't it mean that middle-class people will of necessity be deprived of help, not being able to pay a maid as much as a manservant now receives, and, as a consequence, great

numbers of women domestic servants will be thrown out of work?

May 26th, 1912. 5, Carlton Terrace, Low Fell.

[As a member of the N.U.W.S.S., our correspondent would be quite at liberty to hold any doctrine she pleased about "equal wage for equal work." It is a complicated economic question upon which Suffragists hold divergent views. Many people believe that the only equitable method of payment is according to work done, not according to sex, but few would advocate arriving at this result by any means other than by raising the status of women and by collective bargaining in a matter like this of domestic servants, it is curious, but true that in luxurious houses it is precisely the relative expensiveness of the man which secures him employment in preference to a woman; in less luxurious houses, we find that the men and the women are not really doing the "same work"; men either do different work (such as gardeners and coachmen) or by reason of their greater strength and more suitable clothes they do more and heavier work, or they are engaged because they are great advantages in employing a married couple, or because the protection of a man in the house is desired. It would, we think, be foolishness for a parlormaid to compare herself with a footman, because those who like to pay for silk stockings and powdered hair like to pay for them and like it to be known they pay for them. Even here it is not "the same work."—Ed. "C. C."]

LEGISLATION FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

[Will you allow me to reiterate against the tone of your leader-note concerning the proposed legislation for the care of the feeble-minded? It could only have been written by one who knows nothing about the question from experience. From personal knowledge of thousands of cases and intimate acquaintance from week to week and year to year with hundreds, I have learned that great mistakes have been made in the past about the treatment of women and men of weak intellect. Everything has been done to help the women and nothing to help the men. Yet there are many more feeble-minded men than women. The new Act (Mr. McKenna's) makes provision for both sexes equally, nor is there any likelihood that the law will be unfairly administered, if one may judge from the much greater number of applications for places for boys and men than for women and girls. Again, you speak of sex-mad men. It is not without grave significance that of the adults under our care at Sandbridge, 43 men and 44 women, not one of the men betrays any difficult tendencies at all with regard to sex, whilst of the young women there are a considerable number who have to be most carefully watched in that respect. We have very many more boys than girls, and of these younger ones there are several girls who would be most dangerous to themselves and any boys they came across; there are no boys similarly afflicted. No one knows better than I the danger that feeble-minded men are when at large—or the sad suffering through which they go. But it has been a great enlightenment to me to find that they can be so easily guided when under proper care—far more easily than the girls and women in the one respect of which you speak.

ANGELA M. JAMES. (Hon. Mrs. Bernard James). Fingest Grove, High Wycombe. June 2nd, 1912.

[These two letters are referred to in "Notes and Comments."—Ed. "C.C."]

Other Societies.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND WOMEN VOTERS' ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting held on May 29th, the following resolution was passed unanimously, and sent to Mr. Asquith and Mr. McKenna:—"That this meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Association (London) desires to record its protest against the sentence recently passed on certain of the suffrage leaders, and urges that in the interests of the Empire, political offenders shall not be treated as criminals."—Harriet C. Newcomb, Hon. Sec.

CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.

A very enjoyable and successful dinner was held on Tuesday, May 21st, at the Princess Hall, Hotel Cecil, at 3 p.m., when the speakers will be Lady Selborne, Professor Rickerston and Miss Horiman. Mrs. Saba Raleigh will take the Chair and the Hostess will be Mrs. J. B. Fagan.

INCORPORATED LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE SOCIETY FOR THE PERMANENT CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

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Certainly as regards the future the segregation of the feeble-minded potential father is as important as that of the mother, as both equally hand on their defects to their offspring. But as regards themselves the fate of the feeble-minded girl is the more tragic, and entails perpetual suffering and degradation for herself and her children. Utterly incapable of supporting herself by honest work or of earning a living wage, owing to no fault of her own, but to an innate brain defect, she drifts from one casual employment to another. She usually spends the winter in the workhouse, and goes out per haps in summer only to return to the Maternity Ward or to serve a short sentence in prison. Some of her numerous children do not inherit her mental deficiency,

"Thinking Women Read The Standard"

IN a few weeks this phrase became a truism. Why? Order The Standard for a week, or a day, and you will see. It is because, since October 3, The Standard's daily news pages have included one headed:

"WOMAN'S PLATFORM"

which every Thinking Woman in the land, and very many thinking men, want to see and to study every day. "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" has ended what was called the "Press Boycott" of the serious interests of thinking women—not their ribbons and ornaments, but their thoughts, aims, claims, views, hopes, deeds, and—WORK.

"WOMAN'S PLATFORM" in The Standard has already become the Thinking Woman's own medium in the Daily Press of Great Britain. All thinking women, modern women, are keenly interested in "WOMAN'S PLATFORM." They know that it is their own; they themselves determine how much it can serve their own interests by:—

- 1. Following "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" closely and day, by day in The Standard, and using it freely in women's interests, as opportunity offers.
2. Inducing the largest possible number of the general public—men and women—to do the same thing, thus extending the scope of its services to women.

The Standard, 104, SHOE LANE, LONDON, E.C.



# WEST RIDING FEDERATION BAZAAR

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9, PARK LANE, LEEDS (near Town Hall), on **WEDNESDAY** and **THURSDAY** next, **JUNE 12th** and **13th**.

Cafe Chantant. Dramatic Sketches by **MRS. J. E. THORNTON** and **MISS EMILY FORD**.  
Come and bring all your Friends. Open from 3 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Office—9, PARK LANE, open all day June 10th and 11th to receive parcels.

## CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.

### A T H O M E

KNIGHTSBRIDGE PALACE HOTEL, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W.  
**Tuesday, June 11th, 3.30 p.m.**

Hostess - - - COUNTESS OF ESSEX.  
Speakers.—MISS BEATRICE CARTWRIGHT,  
MRS. GILBERT SAMUEL,  
THE HON. ROBERT PALMER.  
Cards of invitation can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, C.U.W.F.A.,  
48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W.

## CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. PUBLIC DISCUSSION MEETING.

Essex Hall, Strand, W.C. **FRIDAY, JUNE 7th. 8.0 P.M.**  
SUBJECT:

### The Church and the Social Problem.

SPEAKERS:  
Dr. LETITIA FAIRFIELD, Rev. F. M. GREEN,  
Rev. G. D. ROSENTHAL, Rev. C. HINSCLIFF.  
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## PEOPLE'S SUFFRAGE FEDERATION.

## CONFERENCE ON ADULT SUFFRAGE.

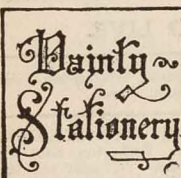
A CONFERENCE of DELEGATES from  
Liberal, Radical, Labour, Socialist, Trade Union and  
other Societies in London and the neighbourhood

will be held at the  
**ESSEX HALL, ESSEX STREET,  
STRAND, LONDON, W.C.,**

On Saturday afternoon, **JUNE 8th, at 3.30.**

Chairman - - - Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON, M.P.  
Movers and Seconders of Resolutions:—Mr. W. C. Anderson (Chairman,  
Independent Labour Party) and Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones, M.P.,  
Mr. W. H. Dickinson, M.P., and Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P.

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I approve of the objects and methods of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and desire to be enrolled as a member of the affiliated Society in my district.

I herewith enclose cheque for £ s. d., the amount of my annual subscription.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other title.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (in full.)

To the Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Society for Women's Suffrage

Or the Secretary National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.