

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. I.—No. 24.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and MANAGING DIRECTOR respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

## EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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## WHAT WE THINK.

### A Possibility.

There is a rumour gaining strength in currency that a Private Members' Bill, taking the municipal franchise qualification for women as the basis of a qualification to vote at Parliamentary elections is likely to be introduced, and if sufficient support is given to it that it will receive facilities from the Government even in the present busy Session. Sir Edward Grey is said to favour the scheme, and "the other side" to look kindly upon it. Though not exactly what we have been asking for, we would not be disposed to quarrel with such a measure becoming law, any more than we would quarrel with any Bill enfranchising women whether it restricted itself to charwomen or Duchesses. It would at any rate be one milestone passed on the way to Justice, and would make the refusal to grant the vote on the same grounds as it is granted to men more ridiculous than it is at present. But such a Bill—facilities or no facilities—is not a gracious measure, and would prove once more that a male Government cannot successfully legislate to the satisfaction of the—until then—unrepresented women of the country.

### Mid-Glamorgan Result.

The return of the Liberal, in spite of the fact that the Liberals practically gave the seat to the Labour Party, is one of the little straws which show which way the wind is blowing. The dictates of the party leaders were ignored, and the constituents elected the candidate "on their own." We did our best to "keep the Liberal out"—not from any personal feeling to the candidate (who professed belief in women's suffrage), as we have said before on many similar occasions—but because he stood for the party which has denied us our just rights. But this new candidate comes in on a ticket something like that of the "O'Brienites" in Ireland. Whether he is wanted or not as a supporter to his party, there he is, and the Master of Elibank may justly regard him with as distrustful an eye as any member of the front bench of the Opposition. He stands for a new form of Liberalism, which refuses to have the exact shade of red it will wear chosen by party leaders. Constituencies are not chattels, and if other constituencies discover this interesting truth, the Government will not have an easy time at the next General Election. Our spirit of independence, our continual efforts to educate the electorate, to induce them to think out the problems before them, and not to blindly follow the dictates of party leadership, while mainly aiming at our own freedom as the reward, has had the effect in many

constituencies of causing the elector to give greater thought to the possible result of his own vote. In Mid-Glamorgan the sheep have questioned the direction of the shepherd's crook, and though the result has been a technical victory for the Liberals, and a technical increase in their numbers, it has not been a moral one, and from it we may foresee many strange happenings in other constituencies during the next Election, for the spirit of Independence is abroad.

### The Wife's Wages.

One of the clauses in Lady McLaren's "Woman's Charter," which has aroused more indignation amongst the uncomprehending than any other, is that suggesting that a wife shall be entitled to a payment not less than a housekeeper in her own rank of life. The objections have come from that class which has never felt the pinch of the shoe. One daily paper remarked, scornfully, that the Charter was based on a consideration of "hard cases." But all preventive legislation originates in the hard case; the Workmen's Compensation Act is directed, not against the humane employer who would pay in any case, but against the inhuman employer, who would pay nothing unless he was compelled to. Similarly the housekeeper-clause is not directed against the husband who makes his wife a decent allowance according to his wages or salary, but against the man who, while exerting to the utmost his privileges as a husband and master, denies her the right to a penny piece of his earnings. It has also been said in some of the daily papers that it would be absurd to expect that the working-man could allow his wife a salary. This is begging the question, and a very good answer to it may be found in the methods of expenditure of a working-man's wages taught to the little girls in the domestic and house-work classes in some of the L.C.C. schools. We have seen the "official" suggested outline of the possibilities to be extracted from wages of 25s. and 30s. a week. In each of these there is a "pocket-money" allowance of several shillings set apart for "father," but nothing for "mother," who works a good deal harder than "father,"—being up to get his breakfast before he goes out in the morning, and slaving for him and his offspring all day, with hardly an interval of leisure. Thus early is the lesson ordered from the male powers, and taught to the small girl at the beginning of her life. And moreover it has been shown in law courts before now that money saved from housekeeping is the property of the husband, and not the reward of the wife's thrift.

### "Daddyism."

Mr. Carnegie has coined a new word—he has coined it to fit the men who live on their father's reputations, and whose individual value is not much. "Daddyism" is his word. It is a good new word, and the language is all too poor in such. But "daddyism" might be made more elastic: it might be made to fit those men who took heed of their fathers' deeds only, and who failed to see that their mother's task of rearing them and of home-keeping was equally valuable. It might be made to fit men who concentrated on their daddies—on the men who lived in a previous generation to their own, and took no heed for the men and women who were likely to come after them. It could easily include those men who think that because women had not the privilege of the franchise in their daddies' time, that, therefore, it was unlikely that they would need, or be worthy of it, in their own time.

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### W. F. L. IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

On Sunday the mass meeting of the W.F.L. took place in Trafalgar Square, and there was excellent speaking and a good muster of members and also of the ordinary public. The speakers were Mrs. Amy Sanderson, Miss Muriel Matters, Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. Manson, Miss Manning, B.A., and Miss Neilans. There was no formal "chair," each speaker on the three different platforms introducing the next. Every speech was characteristic of the speaker. Mrs. Sanderson dealt with labour conditions and politics generally; Miss Matters chose women's work arguments, and said that it was gradually being proved that it was a fallacy to say that women's work was inferior to men's; Mrs. Manson and Miss Manning made good propaganda speeches, dealing with women's conditions generally and their prospects of improvement; Mrs. Emma Sproson drew a large crowd to her side of the plinth as she spoke of the position of the working women, pointing out that political freedom was the key to economic freedom. She dealt with the position of unemployed women, and pointed out that Mr. John Burns was largely responsible for the pauper population being much higher amongst women than amongst men—43 per cent. being women and 28 per cent. being men. This was due to the way Mr. Burns had administered the unemployed fund. He had practically debarred women from obtaining those benefits to which they were entitled during a period of distress, and consequently they were driven to seek Poor-Law relief, being thereby robbed of their old age pensions and driven into the ranks of pauperism. This was not because they were less moral or less industrious than men, but owing to the pressure of poverty being more severe upon the woman. She emphasised the fact in a way that went home with the crowd when she said the Suffragists intended to brook no interference in the position of women so long as such legislation was promoted without the consent of women—which in itself would prove a serious blockade to one political party.

There were many converts made at the meeting and a good deal of literature sold.

### MEN'S LEAGUE MEETING.

Saturday afternoon took its toll of pleasure-seekers and kept them in the vicinity of the Trafalgar Square and to hear the Men's League and their supporters harangue the multitude at the base of the Nelson Column. From three platforms the cause was preached in divers ways—according to their divergent reasons for their belief—by our supporters, and the Suffrage papers were sold by vendors from the different societies, whilst fair ladies from the Actresses' Franchise League passed to and fro amongst the listeners distributing handbills calling the attention of all and sundry to their matinee at the Criterion on May 10. If there were any scoffers in the crowd, they must have melted away into the National Gallery, for the tide of logic and eloquence that poured from the three platforms was strong enough to break down any time-honoured prejudice. The yellow banner of the Men's League was shown on each platform, and representatives of the women's suffrage societies, militant and quiescent, supported their supporters.

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Mr. Herbert Jacobs, B.A. (founder and president of the Men's League), presided at the platform from which Mr. Laurence Housman, Mr. Baillie-Weaver, LL.D., Miss Cicely Corbett, and others spoke. Mr. Housman is always worth hearing. The crowd listened to him, quietly following his excellent reasoning and humour with evident pleasure. He pointed out to them that those men—and they were few nowadays—who laugh at women's suffrage, laughed at their own leaders. Such men who were Liberals were laughing at Cobden, the apostle of Free Trade, who firmly believed in women's suffrage; at the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, at Sir Edward Grey, at Mr. Lloyd George, and Mr. Winston Churchill, all of whom were strongly in favour of giving women the vote. Those of them who were Conservatives were laughing at the late Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour, and those of them who were Socialists at Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Philip Snowden, and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald—all of them confirmed suffragists.

Miss Cicely Corbett, B.A., raised several questions out of the wrongs brought to light in the Woman's Charter. Suffragists were constantly told "to go home and mind the baby." But, according to law, the baby was not the mother's baby, but the father's, so that the suggested domestic occupation really meant, "Go home and mind someone else's baby."

On another platform, presided over by Mr. Malcolm Mitchell (hon. secretary Men's League), Mrs. Manson (N.E.C. of W.F.L.) was one of the chief speakers, and raised the question of the unequal pay given to men and women for the same work, instancing an M.P. who originally paid a male secretary with a pass degree £300 a year, but replaced him by a woman with an honours degree, whom he acknowledged did her work better than the man had done his, but to whom he only gave £100.

Mr. Duval, Mr. Guggenheim, and Mr. Yaldwyn spoke from the same platform. Mr. Baillie-Weaver, LL.D., who was one of the later speakers, recalled the fact that when the agricultural labourer was enfranchised it was stated that he did not want a vote; but against this it was urged that it was for the good of the State, as well as for the good of himself, that he should have it, and therefore he was enfranchised. It was all the more necessary that women should be enfranchised, because whereas men were a wasting factor, women were a conserving factor in life and in Empire-building; while men were the acquiring factor, they were the organising one, and it was for the good of the State that they should be given full citizenship.

Miss Brackenbury (N.W.S.P.U.) and other speakers made excellent speeches during the afternoon, and when the resolution "That the exclusion of women from the Parliamentary franchise is both unjust to women and detrimental to the best interests of the State; and, accordingly, this meeting urges upon the Government the necessity of conferring the Parliamentary franchise upon women at the earliest possible moment" was put from the various platforms, it was passed unanimously. In all there were probably about 2,000 present.

The *Daily Telegraph* described the meeting as "the most sedate and well-mannered demonstration ever held in support of a militant cause," and further remarked:

All rivalries between competing Suffragist organisations were for the moment laid aside in a combined attempt—under the leadership of enfranchised men—to convince the community of the inherent justice of the cause all concerned had so much at heart. The three main Suffragist societies were all represented by a speaker—one at each of the three separate platforms. Like all the others who addressed the crowd, they tackled their subject with earnestness, and were listened to with undisturbed attention. Within the square was a fairly numerous force of police of all ranks, from the superintendent and the inspector downwards; but there was really no work for the officers to do, and—with apologies to the biting wind—they spent a pleasant enough Saturday afternoon on familiar ground.

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### YORKSHIRE CAMPAIGN.

According to the Yorkshire Press one of the chief attractions at Harrogate during the Easter holidays was the Suffragette meetings. We held three a day on the Stray, but the authorities were most determinedly anti, as they refused to allow us to chalk, speak from any elevation whatsoever, sell literature, or take collections.

However, we had very good meetings, and disposed of several dozen VOTES. Our method of advertising was unique. We decorated Mrs. Gordon's baby's mailcart in the colours and attached a large board in front with the notice of our meetings. Baby entered into the spirit. She spent her time, both at the meetings and in the car, reading THE VOTE—generally upside down. Miss Woodall, of Chester, Mrs. Gordon, and I addressed the crowds. New members were gained. One lady put her sympathy into practical form by offering her gymnasium for an indoor meeting. We hope to hold it this month.

Open-air meetings have been held in surrounding towns and villages. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Lockwood, of Linthwaite, the Misses Kilburn, of Meltham, and many others for kindly help and assistance in various ways.

The week closed with an enthusiastic mass meeting in St. George's Square, Huddersfield.—ANNA MUNRO.

### MID-GLAMORGAN BY-ELECTION.

The Liberal got in with a considerably reduced majority—and this reduction may be traced to our persistent efforts in all parts of the constituency to bring home to the electorate the evasions of the Liberal Government in dealing with the unenfranchised women of the country. Mrs. McLeod Cleaves was in charge of W.F.L. operations and ably "generalised" her forces. Miss Janet Heyes (Manchester), Miss Muriel Nelson, Mrs. Manson (N.E.C.), and Miss Benett (London) did yeoman's service in weakening the Government support throughout the constituency.

### I. L. P. AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

At the Conference of the Independent Labour Party, held in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, on the consideration of the Council's report, Mrs. Robinson, of Manchester, moved the omission of a paragraph referring to the progress of the Women's Suffrage movement as a protest against the inaction of the Council in that matter. With the exception of Mr. Philip Snowden and Mr. Keir Hardie, she said, not one of them had brought public opinion to bear against forcible feeding.

Mrs. Despard supported the protest, and expressed the hope that the Council would take the matter up more vigorously.

Mr. Wishaw contended that on account of its action on the woman's movement the party had endangered its position with the Socialist movement—"No, no"—and he did not think in some parts of the country some of the women had acted as loyally to the party as they ought to have done.

Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., said that the question was one of those big issues which came to test such a movement as theirs, and he confessed he was sometimes alarmed to see the way the question was dealt with by people who professed to be Socialists. If they made it part of the propaganda work of the party he believed, from what he knew of the House of Commons, they could have this question settled amongst the earliest of the political questions which Parliament would be called upon to deal with. It would be fatal for them if by their inaction they drove the women from the party into a state of semi-antagonism.

The subject then dropped, the proposition being withdrawn; but it was revived later on in the day on the discussion of resolutions on electoral reform. There were two resolutions, one from Finsbury reaffirming the demand for adult suffrage and the political equality of the sexes, and the immediate extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as it is granted to men, and the other from Hornsey, declaring that the only extension of the franchise worthy of support by a democratic organisation was its extension to every adult man and woman. The Hornsey amendment was defeated by 171 votes to 94 and the Finsbury resolution was carried.

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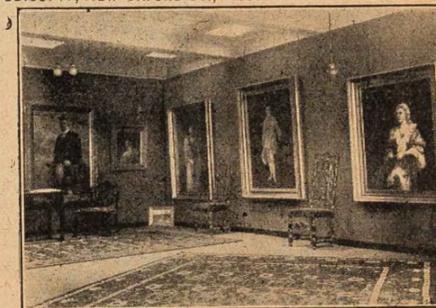
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### MR. PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P.

The Woman's Cause has no more constant champion than Mr. Philip Snowden. In his first candidature for Parliament he spoke in favour of the removal of the sex-disability, and since then he has unceasingly pleaded the Women's Cause, his convictions growing stronger with the tests of time.

Just before the Easter recess he gave the Editor of THE VOTE a brief interview on the present political complexion of the woman question, and this in the significant environment of St. Stephen's and within hearing of the division bell.

Of the possibility of the Labour party voting as a party for the removal of sex-disability, Mr. Snowden was not hopeful.

"As individuals they have all voted for every Bill that has been brought in in favour of Women's Enfranchisement. But as a party the Labour members are hampered by the resolution passed at the Conference in support of adult suffrage. I do not think that as a party they will ever commit themselves to the support of the removal of the sex-disability. The question was hotly debated at several Conferences, but the result has been always the same—the majority decided that this reform must come as adult suffrage. It has not been raised now for two or three Conferences.

"But I think the women are very wise to ask for their enfranchisement in the way they have asked for it—as the mere removal of sex-disability. Adult suffrage can only come by stages. And if the women allowed the question of their enfranchisement to become entangled with other franchise questions just now they would arouse the opposition of those who were opposed on quite different grounds to those other questions, but whose feelings towards the removal of the sex-disability were of the kindest.

"In this Parliament," went on Mr. Snowden, "there is an amount of sympathy towards Women's Suffrage which is astonishing. People said that the action of the militants had turned public feeling and the feeling of the House against them, but it is not so. So far from sympathy being alienated, there are a larger number of real supporters in the House at the present time than there has ever been, for to be pledged now to Women's Suffrage is a quite different matter to what it was before. It is a pledge whose fulfilment cannot be evaded."

"What effect has the daily presentation of the petitions on the House?"

"It makes a most profound impression when day after day members from every part of the country bring forward petitions signed by thousands of the electorate praying for Women's Enfranchisement. Yesterday (Tuesday, March 26th) the unique spectacle of a Cabinet Minister—Mr.

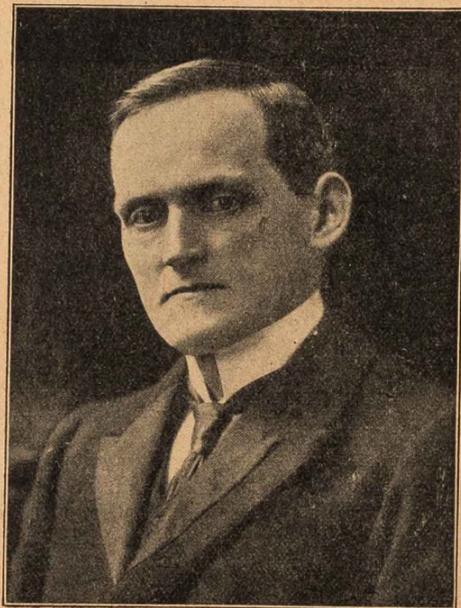
Winston Churchill—presenting such a petition was seen. My own petition from my electors at Blackburn had 6,400 signatures. And it must be remembered that there is no obligation on any member to publicly present these petitions; he could slip them secretly into a bag at the back of the Speaker's chair. But the fact is that the feeling on the matter is so strong that the reluctant members are terrorised into presenting them publicly.

"When did I first become interested in Women's Suffrage? Well, that I can hardly say; I think I always believed in it. I made it a prominent feature of my first election address ten years ago, and I spoke of it again later at a bye-election, but I began to take an active interest in it when the question was raised about five years ago.

"Yes, I am sure it will come," said Mr. Snowden, in answer to a question; "and I think it may come soon. Nothing can be done in this Parliament, and the next—which will be much the same—will probably have as short a life. Should the Conservatives come to power I would not be surprised if they gave the franchise to women. There is considerable support for the cause on the Conservative benches, but if it came from them it is not unlikely that it might come limited to those who had a municipal qualification.

"The future of the woman voter? Well, I personally think it would lead to many social reforms. There are those who say that it will put back 'Progress,' but whatever they think—whether they are under the impression that women will not use the Vote in the particular way they would wish them to—that is no argument why it should be withheld. The number of women who are keenly interested in political and social matters is on the increase, and I particularly noticed this during the elections at my meetings. Again, if a number of women do not vote when they obtain the franchise, it will be largely the fault of the men. It will mean that they have given them a weapon without showing them how to use it; but the same objection would equally apply to every new class of men that has ever been admitted to the franchise, and would hold, too, in the matter of the adult suffragists, both men and women. And I do not think there is the remotest chance of adult suffrage.

"As far as the country is concerned, it is practically convinced of the need for this reform. The intellectual battle has been won completely. It only remains to overcome the stupidity of prejudice and the opposition of those who have been beaten in argument and who have only brute force left. To say that women cannot decide Imperial matters is pure nonsense. The male elector does not decide them, though he may think he does. They are done departmentally by a body of permanent officials, and questions such as foreign diplomacy are generally arranged



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### INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

There are many institutions which claim in their several ways to fill a long-felt want, but there is hardly one which has grown so speedily out of the need for it as the International Women's Franchise Club. It has its present premises in an annexe of the Imperial Hotel, 66, Russell Square, W.C., and there, in large and lofty rooms, with pleasant chintz-covered furniture, it is an ideal meeting place for those whose sympathies are identical, though their methods of giving them expression may vary.

The secretary, Miss Cicely Corbett, is a well-known Suffragist, and a specially-gifted speaker. The idea of the club, she informed a representative of THE VOTE, originated at the International Suffrage Congress, and was due to Mr. Herbert Jacobs and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, both of whom thought that it was most necessary that there should be some common meeting place for Suffragists of every country and of every society. So the idea of a non-party and international club grew up, and took shape, and it has already 700 members drawn from Suffragists of every creed and every party.

"That is the great feature of the International Women's Suffrage Club," said Miss Corbett. "Everybody can belong to it who is in favour of women's suffrage, and our membership already includes members of the New Union, of the W.F.L., of the N.W.S.P.U., of the Constitutionals, of the Conservatives, of the Men's League, and of every existent suffrage society. We had our unofficial opening before Christmas, but we shall have our official opening on Friday, April 8th, when we shall give a dinner to those M.P.s, irrespective of party, and their wives, if they happen to be married, who are in favour of women's suffrage.

"We aim at having affiliated clubs all over the world where the suffrage movement has spread, so that we in our travels and the foreigners in theirs will have a place of meeting and of rest. An international 'entente' among Suffragists would broaden sympathies and also have an excellent educational result. The different economic and social conditions prevailing amongst women in different countries would then become known, and there would be no danger of 'feminism' becoming parochial and interested only in its own local wrongs and rights."

Intending members are urged to lose no time in joining, as after 1,000 members are on the books an entrance fee will be added to the subscription, which is at present only one guinea.

The club, which is conveniently situated, consists at present of two large rooms overlooking the square, a drawing-room and a smoke room. There is also a third smaller room, and two other large rooms on the ground floor are available should circumstances render it desirable to obtain further accommodation. Tea and coffee with light refreshments are obtainable at a cost of 6d. Members of the club have also free use of the rooms of the Imperial Hotel adjoining, where they can obtain meals or board and lodging at reduced rates.

All suffrage literature, as well as the usual newspapers and reviews, are taken for the use of members.

Full particulars can be had from the secretary, Miss Cicely Dean Corbett, at the club.

secretly." The house had risen, and strangers were no longer welcome in the sacred precincts, so it was obviously time to go. But no one who had spoken with Mr. Snowden on any question in which he was interested—and such questions are always sound in principle and practical for action—could have any doubt that when he is convinced he is the most tireless, the most logical, the most dauntless, and the most inspiring of champions. That eloquence which inflames his own constituents, and that swift-flowing argument which even fires the somnolent yet critical House, are the weapons which he uses for us too. And when a man fights with fire and conviction and sincerity, it is well that he fights on our side.

M. O. K.

### WOMEN TEACHERS AND THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS.

It is a healthful sign of the times that women teachers are awakening to their needs and responsibilities.

The membership of the National Union of Teachers is 67,500, and a majority of the members are women. The policy of the union is decided by an executive committee of thirty-six members. This year five of those members are women. Last year the women held two seats only. This year also, for the first time in the Union's history, a woman, Miss Cleghorn, of Sheffield, has been appointed Vice-President. Progress is being made, but the new women members have work to do, and women teachers must support them.

The comparative absence of woman's influence on the executive becomes significant when one learns that the Union does not advocate equal pay for equal work. The minimum salary for a certificated head mistress set down in the scale of salaries adopted by the National Union of Teachers is £30 per annum less than that advocated for a head master. This in a Union the majority of whose members are women!

A National Federation of Women Teachers has been formed to safeguard women's interests in the profession, and *The Schoolmaster*, the official organ of the N.U.T., in reporting on its first conference says:—

"First in significance, in view of the awakening of woman to her claims, is the first conference of the National Federation of Women Teachers. . . ."

It is good to be alive, it is better to be awake. It is better still for men to realise that women are awake.

### Mrs. Billington-Greig.

Mrs. Billington-Greig is making steady progress towards recovery. This week she has been allowed to get up for an hour each day, and expects to be discharged from the nursing home in about a week. We hope to announce in a few weeks that a holiday by the sea has put her well on the way to a complete restoration of health.

### Preliminary Announcement.

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## THE VOTE.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1910.

### EMPTIED WORDS.

"To call it two-Chamber government is to empty words of all meaning."

The above is a sentence from a recent *Daily News* leader, and is part of a fierce denunciation of the attitude of the Conservative Party towards the present political crisis.

"To empty words of all meaning."

In itself the phrase sums up quite neatly and accurately a result achieved by the Liberal Government. They have reduced to meaningless jingles the words justice, truth, and honour. They have made a hollow mockery of such terms as democracy, "the will of the people," "freedom and liberty."

The indignant gentleman who hurls anathemas at the Opposition from the leader columns of the *Daily News* has often also to engage in the thankless task of reconciling in the eyes of a sceptical world the contradictory statements of the Prime Minister and his colleagues. He would find his task considerably simplified if he would remember the phrase quoted above, and explain that, in nearly all cases, these gentlemen are using words that are "empty of all meaning."

Suffragists, having learnt this fact from bitter experience, are not, then, likely to be misled, on hearing that Mr. Asquith talked of a "full-grown and unfettered democracy" when he introduced his famous Veto resolutions last week, into imagining that he used these words in their usually accepted sense. "Democracy," according to the Asquithian interpretation, is a word of male—not common—gender. It may include tramps and vagrants, the most ignorant, the most foolish, the most vicious persons, so long as they are of the male sex. It will exclude others, no matter how high their moral and intellectual standard, no matter of what value their services, no matter what responsibilities they fulfil, so long as they are of the female sex. The democracy will be "fettered" in Mr. Asquith's eyes so long as any man is without a vote; it will be full-grown and unfettered when all men vote, though more than half the nation is denied any share whatsoever in the right of self-government. This Asquithian habit of conferring personal and private meanings upon words increases the difficulties of the Suffragists' task in a way that is very little realised. The word "proof," for instance, in the Prime Minister's mind, is endowed with characteristics that would seem to imply that it also possessed a gender. Three years ago he told the women of the country that they must produce conclusive proof that they desired the franchise. It was pointed out to them that every organised body of women, from the Labour women to the Primrose Dames, from the Co-operative Guilds to the medical and University graduates, had petitioned for the vote in the constitutional way. Since then, at the least computation, a hundred thousand meetings have been held in the country at which resolutions in favour of women's suffrage have been carried. Many more petitions have been signed. The greatest political demonstration in history has been held by them in Hyde Park. Suffrage societies have become almost as numerous as leaves in Vallombrosa. Women have raised great sums of money—one of the surest signs of the "liveness" and importance of a movement—to conduct a national campaign. They have sacrificed leisure time, strength, liberty, health, reputation, everything to which most people selfishly cling, in order to prove the genuineness of their demand. They have faced torture, and some heroic few possible death.

Yet still Mr. Asquith, who talks indignantly of the "iniquity of frustrating the popular will," keeps his eyes obstinately shut to all these signs of a widespread and urgent demand. Is it to be wondered at if the women of

the country sometimes feel that they are emulating the labours of Sisyphus in attempting to satisfy the Prime Minister's request? Is it to be wondered at either if, knowing the liberal—not literal—meaning attached to the words, they are unmoved by the *Daily News'* frantic call to arms because the principle of so-called "representative government" is in danger? Cynical amusement can only be felt by all lovers of justice and freedom at the calculated clanging of the alarm bell by the Press that has whitewashed the Government's worst deeds and colour-washed the women's vigorous agitation with lying hues of depreciation and misrepresentation.

Luckily for us, however, the denial of facts does not destroy them. Truth is mighty and must prevail. That is as much a truism now as ever it was. No man or party can dam the tide of progress simply by the denial of its existence. No man or party can stand indefinitely between the people and the object of their desire.

That, too, is a truism from which we may gain comfort and encouragement. For we know that the signs that our cause is growing in strength and popularity are increasing in geometrical ratio day by day.

No amount of contemptuous reference to "hen-pecking" or "ineffective rages" on the part of smarting Cabinet Ministers will cover up the damaging fact of the greatest majority of modern times almost swept away.

If we receive no definite and conclusive pledge from the Government before the next General Election, we must spare no pains to make it an even more humiliating and decisive object lesson than the last. During this time of truce our efforts must not flag for a single moment. All the enthusiasm that women feel for their cause must be translated into definite work and sacrifice.

And we must teach the Government by the unmistakable strength and clarity of our message that the meaning—which they have so outraged and insulted—of the words freedom and liberty must be restored. And we must teach them also that those who wantonly preach high doctrines with their mouths and deny them in their hearts must pay the penalty that is exacted for all such blasphemy by an outraged people. MARION HOLMES.

### MEMORIAL TO MME. DE STAEL.

In England, with the exceptions of the historic Charing Cross and a tribute to the incomparable Siddons, there is hardly a monument in a public place to a woman, though the traffic is constantly congested round resplendent stone males striking attitudes which might well excite the envy of our *jeunes premiers*. France, however, is not so remiss, and a correspondent in *T.P.'s Weekly* writes:—

"News comes to me from Paris to the effect that that capital of culture is about to honour the memory of Mme. de Staël by the erection of a memorial statue at the junction of the Rue de l'Arcade and the Boulevard Malesherbes. The committee which has the affair in hand, both in Paris and London, is composed exclusively of women, and it is to a woman, Mme. de Charmoy, that the commission for executing the work has been given. The Paris correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* interviewed this lady in her studio, and says:—

"The 'marquette' gives an interesting idea of the general look of the lady of letters as she sits, on a high pedestal of yellow stone, bordered with variegated marble columns. She is seated upon a wide open seat reading a book—a characteristic attitude, I should suppose. Upon her shoulders is a scarf picturesquely thrown, with the effect of a Greek garment; her head is enveloped in a turban, which serves as an aureole. The neck is bare, and, below it, hangs a pendant. The figure, also, will be in yellow stone quarried in Lorraine: a material that stands excellently well the weathering of Paris. Upon the slabs of stone at the base appear the names of her principal works 'Corinne,' 'Delphine,' 'De l'Allemagne.'"

Mr. Wakefield writes us with reference to a recent paragraph in *THE VOTE* to point out that his daughter's appointment is *not* as assistant gardener, but as assistant botanist in the laboratory and herbarium at Kew, where her duties will be identifying fungoid diseases affecting plant life.

### BRANCH NOTES.

**Harrow.**—"Rions," Northwick Park Road.

By the kind invitation of Mrs. Terrero, a most successful At Home was held at Rockstone House, Pinner. Mrs. Fates made a brilliant speech in which she appealed to the class of women most difficult to rouse in the suburbs—the leisured class that assure one that the vote will be of no personal advantage to them. Mr. Terrero was most convincing in his reasons why women should have the vote both in theory and practice, and his appeal to the ladies to support the men's demonstration in Trafalgar Square resulted in many volunteering to do so. Miss Dugdale brought up the rear with a defence of militant tactics, after which tea was served. Our best thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Terrero for their kind hospitality, and we hope that others will follow their example. The first open-air meeting of the W.F.L. is to be held on Saturday, April 9th, in Wealdstone at 3 p.m. If anyone knows of people likely to be interested in this movement residing in the Harrow district, would they send in the names and addresses to Mrs. HUNTSMAN, "Rions," Northwick Park Road, Harrow.

**Ipswich.**—160, Norwich Road.

On Thursday, March 31st, our usual meeting was used to try to develop the speaking faculties of our members. The food for discussion was provided by Mrs. Saintry, who read extracts from Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman's poems. As many present found it difficult to express their thoughts in words we shall attempt to form a speakers' class, if the necessary instructor can be found. We are glad to note the appointment of a lady to the post of Churchwarden in one of our Ipswich churches. Miss Burton, who is now Vicar's Warden at St. Mary-at-the-Elms, is well known in the town for her work amongst girls who need a guiding hand. Are there any friends in the district who will help us with the sale of *THE VOTE*? Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Pratt, and Miss Howard are indefatigable sellers; we want other volunteers.—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

**Manchester (Central Branch).**—9, Albert Square.

The members of the Manchester Branch have been devoting their Easter holidays to helping the campaign in the Eccles Division, and have promised to do so until after the Eccles meeting on April 13. It was decided, however, on Thursday that the special outdoor meeting of the Branch to be held on the 7th should be the beginning of our own campaign, which will take in the whole of the district from Longsight to Stockport. We shall therefore meet on Thursday in Mersey Square, Stockport, at 8 p.m. Mr. Ward has kindly promised to take the chair, and Miss Heyes to speak, and we hope that the meeting will help towards the formation of a Branch in the district. Permission has been received from the Superintendent of the Branch Libraries to place a copy of *THE VOTE* each week in the Reading Rooms, and six districts have already been selected and steps taken to supply the paper. We hope later on to extend this to the twenty-three Branch Libraries, and subscriptions to the Fund for this purpose will be gladly received by the Literature Secretary. Four shillings and sixpence will cover the cost for one library for a whole year, and friends who cannot give time to the work might help in this way.—M. I. NEAL, President.

**Central Branch.**—1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

A lovely morning found us again in Regent's Park to-day, Sunday, April 3. This time Mrs. Chapin kindly opened the meeting with a neat little speech and in a few moments drew an interested crowd, which had quickly and gradually enlarged by the time Miss Benett got up to speak. In her calm, and yet vigorous, words, she soon impressed her listeners, who were very distinctly sympathetic. Several faces I recognised at once amongst the crowd as having attended our meeting last Sunday. Miss Benett greatly interested her audience when she referred to the Gladstone League meeting held last Thursday week at the Queen's Hall, at which she and Mrs. Manson were present with the express purpose of asking Mr. Lloyd George a question, how they were received by him, and his very conciliatory reply to "Might they be allowed to put a question to him after the meeting?" Then followed Mr. Cyril Yaldwyn, who in an excellent speech brought forward very forcibly the reasons for and against from the anti-suffrage point of view. Many questions were asked and answered, and the crowd did not seem at all inclined to disperse though it was 1.30 p.m. and we were compelled to draw the meeting to a close in order to enable the speakers to keep their engagements at Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square. We are indeed indebted to the Men's League in so kindly assisting us and in undertaking to find us a speaker for each Sunday.—EVELYN DE VISMES.

**Battersea.**—87, Park Road, St. John's Hill, S.W.

At a meeting of the Battersea Branch of the W.F.L. held on Friday, April 1, at the urgent request of the members, Mrs. Duval withdrew her resignation as branch secretary. The members expressed their unabated confidence in her work, and the Branch will continue its propaganda as usual on behalf of the cause.—E. D. D.

**Waterloo.**—48, Kimberley Drive, Great Crosby.

We have started a *VOTE* selling campaign. This week our members sold *VOTES* in Liverpool, Southport, and Birkenhead. More workers are needed. Will members who are willing to give an hour on Friday or Saturday please send in their names to the hon. secretary.—S. H. FENTON.

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**Edinburgh.**—17, Upper Gilmore Place.

The afternoon "At Home" on Tuesday, March 29, when Miss Stirton and Miss A. L. Catto, M.A., were the hostesses, was again well attended. Miss Catto, who took the chair, compared the "Anti's" to gardeners who not only do nothing to root out the weeds in the garden, but considered it indelicate to acknowledge the existence of weeds at all. Suffragists, on the contrary, do all in their power to eradicate the weeds with such tools as they have; but the most important tool of all for workers in the social garden is the Vote, and that we are denied. Miss Gillooly, who followed, made us realise afresh the existence in our very midst of the most noxious of all these weeds—the social evil. Her work in connection with the City Mission and the discharged Prisoners' Aid Society makes her pre-eminently fitted to deal with this subject, and what she said deeply impressed her hearers. In the evening the annual business meeting was held, and very satisfactory reports were submitted by the secretary and treasurer. Besides various special meetings, socials, &c., the Branch has held all the winter two regular meetings every week. This sign of interest on the part of our members, together with the balance in the treasurer's hands, justifies us in our next step, the taking of a shop. Suitable premises have been secured at 33, Forrest Road, and with the help of Miss Madge Turner, who has now started work with us, we hope to be installed in a few weeks. The secretary and treasurer were heartily thanked for their reports and for their increasing work on behalf of the Branch. Mrs. Bell, the retiring President, also received a very hearty vote of thanks. Officials and committee were then elected as follows:—President, Miss Sara Munro; vice-president, Miss Dundas Grant; secretary, Miss A. B. Jack; assistant secretary, Miss McLachlan, M.A.; treasurer, Miss M. A. Wood; lit. sec., Mrs. Thomson; assist. lit. sec., Miss M. Jolly, M.A.; committee, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Paterson, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Crabbe, Miss Muil, Miss Roy, Miss Stirton, Miss McNeillie, Miss Hall. The shop will give new opportunities of service to all members. We are confident that these opportunities will not be missed.—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Assistant-Secretary.

"WHY I WANT THE VOTE."

\*\* Under this heading we shall have from time to time the personal opinions of our best-known supporters, giving the reasons why they want the vote. We all know the broad reasons why we want it; but the intimate reasoning which has led others of us into the ardent fighting front ranks has a special interest. This week the Hon. Secretary of our Eastbourne branch gives lucid expression to her views.

"The crowning fact, The highest act Of freedom is the freeman's Vote."—WHITTIER.



[Photo by Weston and Sons, Eastbourne. MRS. ALICE DILKS.]

I want the vote primarily because I know the cruel wrongs my sister women have to suffer; wrongs which cannot be righted until women have this weapon in their hands. I am tired of pruning, which is what we women have been doing for years in our various philanthropic works, and we feel the inefficiency of this, and are now anxious to dig right down to the roots, and do our share towards making the country "better and happier." I was made a Suffragette at an early age, for I was the only girl with several brothers, and it was always installed into my mind that I was "only a girl." As a child I rebelled at the injustice, and when very young made a mental vow that I would do something to alter this state of affairs.

As I grew to womanhood, I realised the demoralising effect this idea of man's superiority had on my brothers. As a schoolmaster's wife, and having had the care of boys for over twenty years, I have had further experience of this disastrous idea, which is only too prevalent in the minds of boys and men.

As long as women have no political existence this will continue, and our boys grow up to manhood looking down on their mothers and sisters. We scarcely realise how this spirit grows, and how it spreads from boy to boy.

In my opinion this is at the bottom of the terrible social evil which is sapping our nation at the very core, and the only remedy for this is the woman's vote.

I want the vote because I believe in equality of opportunity, and am convinced that until women are recognised politically this is a meaningless phrase for us. Take, for instance, a boy and girl entering the University (Oxford or Cambridge). A boy may devote his time to pleasure and games, and is allowed to take his degree by just scraping through the examinations. Not so the girl; she must take "Honours," and then is denied the privilege of the degree which she has earned. These injustices could not remain if women had the vote.

As a Branch Secretary, and before that as Secretary of a large Women's Liberal Association, my work has brought me into contact with the working women, and it is the hardness of their lives which has made me feel more strongly the necessity of the vote.

I want the vote because I am a mother and feel the injustice of not being recognised as a parent, and I should like to see woman's work in the home have more consideration. Her work of training the future citizens is of the utmost importance, and until women are free, we can never have a free race of men and women. ALICE DILKS.

WHAT WE ARE SAYING AND DOING.

"If any man is for captivity, into captivity he goeth."—BOOK OF REVELATION, XIII. 10.

\*\* In this column we propose to give W.F.L. news items in tabloid form week by week.

At the I.L.P. Conference.

Mrs. Despard said that not sufficient had been done by the I.L.P. on behalf of Women's Suffrage during the past year, and she hoped more serious consideration would be given to the question.

Pageant in Swansea.

Swansea is preparing for the Pageant of Famous Women, which, under the auspices of the W.F.L., is to be presented to them on May 5 at the Albert Hall under the joint direction of Miss Edith Craig and Miss Cicely Hamilton. The cast will be largely made up from members and friends of the local W.F.L. Mrs. Despard will speak; afterwards Miss Hamilton will present her "Votes for Women" Waxworks.

At New Brighton.

Miss Matters pointed out that if the women had their representatives in Parliament their standard of pay would be raised on an equality with that of a man. Thereby would be minimised the possibility of women gaining preference of selection on half-pay, and more men than women would consequently be employed.

At Bury St. Edmunds.

Under the auspices of the Ipswich Branch of the W.F.L., at a well-attended meeting at the Constitutional Hall Miss Constance Andrews observed that it was very appropriate that that meeting should be held in Bury St. Edmunds, because that town had been connected with matters of freedom from the time when the Barons assembled to consider the Magna Charta, which was ultimately signed by King John.

Woman's Sphere.

At the same meeting Mrs. Henry Tippet said that an argument against them was that their place was at home. (Applause.) It was a beautiful sentiment, but when they realised that the majority of women were widows and spinsters, and that very many women were working for their living, they would see that such an argument was humbug. What would happen to the hospitals if woman's place was at home? Where would they obtain missionaries, school teachers, and shop girls?

Indirect Taxation.

Speaking also at Bury St. Edmunds Mrs. Despard said that women had to bear taxation, principally indirect. She was still looking for the man who would go home to his wife and say that he would give her an extra shilling because the duty had been raised on sugar or some other commodity. She knew of cases where the woman had to starve herself or go without proper clothing in order to raise extra money needed.

Our "At Homes."

If you want to interest men and women in the Suffrage question, bring them to our "At Homes" on Thursdays at Caxton Hall at 3 o'clock. We have celebrated and interesting speakers, and questions can be asked and answered at the end of the meeting. Every courtesy is shown equally to the queries of doubters and sympathisers.

Departing Friends.

By the same boat on the 7th inst. (Thursday) Miss Muriel Matters, Miss Violet Tillard, and Mr. Joseph McCabe, three good staunch friends to Women's Suffrage, leave our ranks to carry news of us and our doings to the Antipodes.

At Trafalgar Square.

At the Sunday meeting at Trafalgar Square, during Mrs. Sproson's address, an M.P. in the crowd sent her up a message that she should speak more politely of members of the Cabinet. Mrs. Sproson avers that she does not see that they are entitled to any tender treatment from her platform, as she found but scant courtesy from the Government which they represent, and which imprisoned her for six weeks on a groundless charge.

Cardiff.

Mrs. Despard is speaking at two meetings in Cardiff next Friday, April 8th, at the Occidental Café. One meeting is at 3 and one at 8 p.m. Mrs. Haycroft (wife of Professor Haycroft) will be in the chair in the afternoon, and Mrs. D. A. Thomas in the evening. Tickets of invitation can be obtained from Mrs. Woolf, Royal Hotel, Cardiff.

Mrs. Margaret Clayton.

We regret that by an error last week Mrs. Margaret S. Clayton was described as "Miss." Mrs. Clayton is the wife of Mr. Joseph Clayton, some time editor of the New Age, and is, like her husband, a keen suffragist.

Farewell Party.

At her farewell party, held at Miss Edith Craig's flat, 31, Bedford Street, Strand, Miss Matters urged all W.F.L. speakers to do their educational work by dwelling more on the necessity for the removal of the social evil and an improvement in the economic position of women, rather than on the political side of the question.

MADAME MARGUERITE DURAND.

To a representative of the New York World, Madame Marguerite Durand, the leader of the Woman's Suffrage Movement in France, and the editor of a woman's daily paper, recently made confession. Financial help is not as freely given by the rich women of France as it is in America, and this Madame Durand deplures.

"I wish France had a Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont. If only our wealthy women of society would aid the cause of woman suffrage the progress of the movement would be much more rapid. But even without their help we will succeed, for French women are becoming educated to take their places in the world as the equals of men, and that is the best and surest way to give them a voice in the government.

"I am going to present myself at the next election (in May) as a candidate for the Chamber of Deputies from the Ninth Arrondissement" (the congressional district in which Mme. Durand lives).

"Of course I shall not be elected. I couldn't be, for

under the law women are not yet eligible. But I shall run to call attention to the fact that the laws discriminate against women, and I wish my campaign to bring to public notice the necessity of giving women the franchise. It will cost me about two thousand dollars in Government stamps required for the election posters and for other necessary expenses, but I am willing to spend this money in the effort to obtain reforms that must come, for they are reasonable and needed.

"That's the worst of it, the expense." Mme. Durand sighed and unconsciously adjusted her pearl necklace as if she found even it a burden. "Wealthy women of high social influence will not help the movement because they are in sympathy with the Clerical party. It is natural, for their priests have much influence over them, and through them it comes about that the rich women are reactionaries, royalists, and imperialists. That was a reason, too, why women should not have received the franchise before now, for had they been able to vote you may be sure that a king or emperor would have been on the throne of France long ago. The Clericals here are all royalists or imperialists.

"But that day is passing fast and has almost passed. Then women were educated exclusively in convents and followed the instruction given them by the Church rather than the broadening course of study required of men. That was one of the reasons why I established fifteen years ago a newspaper known as La Fronde.

Her Newspaper Experience.

"I started La Fronde," explained Mme. Durand, "to obtain for women admission to all Government schools—the Beaux Arts, Law, Medicine, the Sorbonne, &c.—which was then denied them. The paper was the first owned and edited exclusively by women, and it accomplished its purpose; that is, the things I aimed at are now either realities or Bills are pending in the Chamber of Deputies to carry out the suggested reforms. When I thought its mission was fulfilled I combined La Fronde with L'Action to broaden its scope, and so the only paper exclusively feminine, owned and edited by women, ceased to exist. I have now the paper known as Les Nouvelles.

"If only our wealthy women would help!" she exclaimed, adding, more hopefully, "but that will come too in time. Women are now lawyers, doctors, architects, and in trade in a big way. They are admitted to the Council of Prudhommes, which is composed of working people and employers, and decides differences between the employers and the employed.

"They are no longer to be feared as reactionaries and royalists. The working girl is educated in secular

schools, and is no longer under clerical influence. She receives a liberal education, and can reason for herself. She, as well as her more fortunate sister, is learning that she has rights, and that she must get out from under the influence of the old Napoleonic law, which says that 'woman is man's property.' There are five million bachelor women in France, more than half of whom are earning their own living.

"I feel confident that in the next four years

we shall see women declared eligible to all public offices, or nearly all, and be allowed to vote, which are the only two privileges now remaining for us to obtain to place us on an equality with men.

Do Not Ask Exemption from Military Service.

"We ask no favours for our sex. We do not ask to be excused from military service, the great argument advanced by the opponents of equal rights. Women can do service in army offices or as nurses, for which work they are better suited than men. How ridiculous it is to have men buy clothes and superintend the 'housekeeping' arrangements of the army when they are not qualified to do it in everyday life!

"Women who are blessed with motherhood could be immune from military service, having already rendered their service to the nation."

Miss Agnes Leonard (hon. secretary, Sheffield branch W.F.L.) is here seen preparing a succulent repast. She is an expert vegetarian cook. The photo is by her nephew.



[Photo: Leonard M. Garlick. (5) Miss Agnes Leonard (Sheffield) Cooking a Vegetarian Dinner.]



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## 101 POINTS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

*These points will cover the legal, social, and economic grounds on which women demand the vote, and will call attention to the glaring inconsistencies which demand a change in the present condition of the franchise.*

14.—A WOMAN CANNOT SERVE ON ANY JURY NOR BE A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, MAGISTRATE, OR JUDGE OF ANY COURT. THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THIS IS THAT WOMEN CANNOT BE TRIED BY THEIR PEERS—THAT IS, A WOMAN CANNOT BE TRIED OR JUDGED BY WOMEN.

When women are accused of any crime, or brought into a court of law on any count whatsoever, they have to face a judge and jury of a different sex, who may be, from the nature of the case, incapable of passing judgment without a sex bias. In affiliation cases, cases of assault, cases of the murder of an illegitimate child, accusations of soliciting, and minor actions brought by dressmakers, &c., it is essential that the woman's point of view be represented. So far, one sex alone tries and decides on all offences against a law that has been made by that sex, the consequence being that justice is seldom done to women, and more particularly women of the poorer classes.

It is, of course, for women to consider whether this is a good or a bad thing. It has often been contended that juries of women would be harder on women than juries of men. It is quite natural that men should not realise that in every official act, and in most business transactions, a woman has to apply to a man and cannot go to a fellow-woman.—RALPH THICKNESSE, "The Rights and Wrongs of Women."

## NEW ZEALAND AND THE VOTE.

It is interesting to find our "highly-placed" contemporary the *Morning Post* devoting one of its columns to a sympathetic article from its correspondent in Wellington dealing with the way in which the vote was won in New Zealand and the results in that progressive Colony. There the Man in the Street finds that the Woman on the Hearth votes pretty much as he does, and sticks as close to the hearth as before. He will find the same here when the vote is won. We give some clippings from this interesting screed. The italics are our own:—

### PUBLIC OPINION ANTICIPATED.

As to the manner in which the women of New Zealand obtained the vote, it was eminently peaceful and conciliatory, but luck had a good deal to do with their early triumph. By petitions, which were very widely signed, and by public meetings, which were addressed by some of our leading politicians, but mostly organised by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, public opinion had been very favourably impressed, and there was no organised opposition of any kind. But when Mr. Seddon inserted the necessary clause in the Electoral Bill of 1893, a majority of the electors had probably paid no serious attention to the matter, and they certainly had not pronounced in its favour at the General Election held nearly three years before. *Nor, strange to say, was Mr. Seddon himself in favour of the reform.* The rivalry of Sir Robert Stout with a strong backing of Temperance sentiment had forced his hand in the House of Representatives. Like everybody else, he expected that the Legislative Council would come to the rescue by referring the matter to the people at the General Election due a month or two later, but his calculations were falsified by a single vote. "O, the little more, and how much it is." Thus it was that the women of New Zealand got the vote before either the Premier or the public was quite ready to grant it.

### NO OBJECTORS LEFT.

*But, after the passing of the reform in this singular fashion, absolutely nothing has occurred to create any reaction or to do anything but dispel the doubts that had been previously entertained.* In saying this I do not refer merely to the politicians, who, of course, could not be expected to advocate the disfranchisement of half their constituents. The late Lord Salisbury's

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comparison of politics to a toboggan slide has a special application to the question of the franchise. The force of political gravitation admits of no rapid progress in this department except on a down grade, nor can we imagine the tendency reversed except through some volcanic explosion or whiff of grape-shot, or other spasmodic power which would check the normal pressure of democracy. Every extension of the franchise is, in ordinary circumstances, a case of *nulla vestigia retrosum*.

But the absence of opposition to the women's vote in New Zealand rests upon higher ground than this. *It is not merely that women have votes, but that they are reckoned to use their votes well.* This does not mean that they have attained to any Utopian standard. If they had, the verdict of the Man in the Street would certainly have been less favourable. A wide divergence of opinion would have created differences of which there had not been the faintest trace. The Man in the Street, finding that the woman on the hearth votes very much as he does, and that, at the same time, she sticks just about as close to the hearth as she did before, accepts without effort or question her equal right to a vote with himself. Mrs. Poyser's apology for the folly of her sex—that "they were made to match the men"—is found to apply to politics no less than to the other walks of life, with the result that what sixteen years ago appeared a great experiment has now an assured stability that would not have pertained to the admission of an equal number of full-blown angels or saints to the franchise.

## STREET "VOTE" SELLING.

Is any member of the W.F.L. looking for an interesting, amusing, and at the same time useful way of spending an hour or two? If so, let her try VOTE selling in the public streets. It sounds much more difficult than it is, and once the initial plunge has been made, its attractions far outweigh any demerits it may possess.

Perhaps the experience of two novices might help others, now hesitating on the brink.

We made our debut last Saturday, but we made it some little distance from home. We wanted as few distractions as possible; we also remembered that a prophet has no honour, &c., &c. We crossed a river, and soon arrived at our proposed pitch. Two rivals, friendly ones, were there before us. One sold *Pink-uns* and matches. Another sold evening papers. For five minutes we were slack; we received a fair amount of attention, caused a little amusement, then business began. We were not in a very busy thoroughfare, still, our papers went at the rate of one in five minutes, till our stock was exhausted. One dear old lady rushed towards us with a penny. When we offered her THE VOTE, she said, "Dear, me, no! I thought you were the Salvation Army."

Two supporters of the Labour Party, who supported us also, could not understand why we were non-party, when there was a Labour Party needing help.

We received sympathetic encouragement from many people, but there is still a tremendous work before us. So much ground seems unbroken, despite all our efforts. If anyone is over-confident about the progress of the movement, let her try VOTE selling. If anyone is despondent, let her try the same remedy, for though at one moment one is struck by the ignorance still existing with regard to "Votes for Women," at another time, in unlooked-for quarters, one finds much sympathetic insight. Just before deserting our pitch two ladies came towards us, bought papers, and exclaimed, "You call us 'lady' and Suffragists, but we are all travelling the same road, and a number of us are very near you." S. H. FENTON.

## A WOMAN PREACHER.

Miss L. R. C. Smith, A.Mus., L.C.M., has had sole charge of the Hannah Street Congregational Church, Cardiff, since April, 1908. She was unanimously called to the pastorate in November, 1908, after having been seven months in charge of the work at Hannah Street. Miss Smith preaches twice every Sunday, and carries on all the other meetings in connection with the church. She also administers the Lord's Supper and the rite of Baptism.

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## THE WOMEN'S CHARTER.

Early in the present Session nine Bills were introduced in the House of Commons by Sir Charles McLaren. There was never, at any time, the least chance that they would be debated, much less passed into law, and yet they have aroused unwonted interest in the Press throughout the country. The time of Parliament is this year mortgaged to the hilt for the discussion of grave Constitutional matters; there is no time to waste on legislation brought forward by private members and forming no part of the Government's immediate programme. This was, of course, well known to the promoters of the Bills embodying the reforms advocated in the "Women's Charter," and yet, in spite of the fact that these particular measures were foredoomed to oblivion, at least as far as the Statute Book was concerned, it was decided to lay them before Parliament. The purpose of their introduction has been achieved. They have excited widespread notice in the Press, and in this way there has been brought before the public a striking summary of the chief disadvantages under which women labour economically and politically. In this lies their value. Many people, unused to following political controversy in any detail, have a vague feeling that, here and there, the law makes for some slight unfairness as between men and women. The recent evidence given before the Commission on Divorce, which, at any rate, was sure of a wide public, must have convinced everybody that all is not right.

To such people it must have come as somewhat of a shock to see, probably for the first time, something like a detailed presentation of the whole case. The educative value of the Women's Charter must certainly be great. Though its provisions cover a wide field, it may be roughly divided under three heads. There is the demand for the removal of political disabilities; the demand for the bettering of economic conditions that arise, partly from the lack of political status; lastly, the demand for a more drastic and thorough treatment of certain social evils that have resulted largely from the inferior economic condition of women. The whole is clear, coherent, and logical. The various parts are mutually dependent; thus it is clear that the political, and through it the social, distinction between the status of men and women has not only curtailed the freedom of women, but has indirectly contributed to their economic difficulties, and to the low standard of morality and conduct which, both in theory and practice, the law allows to men in their dealings with women. This last, and the ideas about women that have been fostered by it, have in their turn reacted unfavourably against the efforts now being made by women to secure for themselves equal political rights. The Women's Charter is really based on the theory that to destroy an evil it must be attacked on all sides at once. Remedial measures may be good as a temporary expedient, but for a permanent cure we must seek for the deep-lying cause of the disease. While the unwholesome fruit is destroyed, the roots must be gradually extirpated.

In this sense the "Women's Charter" will appeal to the thinking man or woman. It shows how closely related are the various ends towards which women are working; it should create a feeling of solidarity and sisterhood among many whose efforts lie in spheres apparently wide apart.

To those to whom it comes as something new, something

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unknown, it will reveal a widespread inequality and injustice that to any imaginative mind will demand much justification if it is to be longer tolerated.

CICELY DEAN CORBETT.

## Cake and Candy Sale.

The members of the Dennistoun Branch have now made all arrangements for the Cake and Candy Sale, which is to be held in Bellgrove Hall on April 9th. All efforts are being made to make the sale a success. A grand concert, including Miss Cicely Hamilton's play, "How the Vote was Won," is to be given in the evening at 8 o'clock. Tea will be served from 3.30 to 7. During the afternoon Madame Marguerite will act as palmist. We trust all members will bring their friends to Bellgrove on Saturday.



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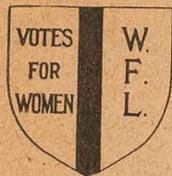
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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

## LONDON.



DARE TO BE FREE.

- Thurs., April 7th **Caxton Hall**, 3 to 6 p.m. Chair, Miss Benett, 3.15 p.m.; Mrs. Amy Sanderson, 3.30 p.m.; Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, 5.10 p.m.
- Thurs., April 7th **Highbury Corner**, 7.30.
- Sat., April 9th **Harrow**, 3 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Sanderson.
- Sun., April 10th **Regent's Park**, 12 noon. Mrs. Sanderson.
- Wed., April 13th **Hackney W.F.L. Shop**, 4, Clarence Road. Mrs. Manson, 8 p.m.
- Wed., April 13th **Croydon Branch**, Thornton Heath Clock, at 8 p.m.
- Thurs., April 14th **Caxton Hall**, 3 p.m. Speakers, Mrs. Nevinson and Frank Rutter, Esq.
- Thurs., April 14th **Highbury Corner**, 7.30.
- Thurs., April 14th **Ruskin Hall**, Ackerman Road, Brixton, 8 p.m. Miss F. A. Underwood.
- Fri., April 15th **Spears Memorial Hall**, Highgate, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Miss Hicks, M.A.
- Wed., April 20th **Central Branch**, 8.15. Mrs. Ennis Richmond
- Wed., April 20th **Barnsbury Hall**, Upper Street, N., 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Manson, H. G. Chancellor, Esq., M.P.
- Sat., April 23rd **"Social" and Entertainment in Lower Town Hall**, Lavender Hill, Battersea.
- Thurs., April 28th **Queen's Hall**, 3 p.m. Reception to Actresses' Franchise League.
- Thurs., May 5th **Queen's Hall**, 8 p.m. Reception to Men's League.
- Thurs., May 26th **Queen's Hall**, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard, when in London, is at the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and will be pleased to see members of the League who wish to consult her.

## THE PROVINCES.

- Thurs., April 7th **Brighthouse**, 8 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Thurs., April 7th **Masonic Hall**, Barry, Mrs. Despard, 7.30.
- Fri., April 8th **Dewsbury**, 8 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Sat., April 9th **Batley**, 8 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Mon., April 11th **Dewsbury**, 8 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Tues., April 12th **Batley**, 8 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Wed., April 13th **Mrs. Despard**, Southend.
- Wed., April 13th **Huddersfield**, Presbyterian Literary Society, 8 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Wed., April 13th **Mass Meeting**, Eccles Town Hall. Speakers, Mrs. Amy Sanderson and others.
- Thurs., April 14th **Huddersfield**, At Home, G.F.S. Room, 3 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.

## SCOTLAND.

- Sat., April 9th **Cake and Candy Sale**, Dennistoun Branch.
- Wed., April 13th **Suffrage Centre**, 302, Sauchiehall Street, 8 p.m. Speaker, Miss Margaret Lewin (Sec. Council Women's Trades), subject, "Our Sweated Workers."
- Sat., April 16th **Central Branch Jumble Sale**, 457, Rutherford Road, S.S.

## WALES.

- Fri., April 8th **Cardiff**, at Occidental Café, Queen Street, 3 p.m.; Mrs. Despard, 8 p.m.; Mrs. Despard.
- Thurs., May 5th **Swansea**, Albert Hall: **Woman's Pageant**. Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Edith Craig. Speaker, Mrs. Despard.

## OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

## Suffrage Atelier.

The Suffrage Atelier has arranged a competition of designs for posters, large and small, and of designs for banners, in embroidery and appliqué. Various prizes are offered. The Design Club will meet in future on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9.30, at Edwardes Square. At these meetings there will be sketching from life (some well-known suffragist will sit whenever possible); and all kinds of technical information connected with the society's work will be given. On Wednesday afternoons at 2.45, an address will be given on some subject dealing with women's interests. Any friends are invited to ask for cards of admission to these addresses. All particulars of the competition and the meetings, can be obtained from the Suffrage Atelier Studio, 1, Pembroke Cottages, Edwardes Square, Kensington, W.

## New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.

The society continues to hold successful weekly meetings. At the Medical Society's Rooms on March 24th Mrs. Hartley welcomed members and their friends, kindly giving them an opportunity of hearing Miss Abadam and Mr. Joseph Clayton, both of whom were even more than usually inspiring. The Society's membership is rapidly increasing.

## Men's Political Union.

The next monthly meeting of the Men's Political Union for Women's Enfranchisement will be held at the Eustace Miles Restaurant on April 14th, 1910, at 8 p.m., when the meeting will be addressed by Mr. Laurence Housman, Mr. Cecil Chapman, and others. It is hoped that members will inform as many friends as possible of these monthly meetings. As the Union is growing, so the work to be done is increasing, and if any members have an hour or two to spare, we shall be very glad of their help.—VICTOR DUVAL, Hon. Sec., 13, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

## OUR COMPETITIONS.

## PRIZES FOR STREET SELLERS.

To encourage her corps of street sellers, Mrs. Snow is offering prizes for the largest number of VOTES sold in April and May. All copies must be obtained from Mrs. Snow, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. The first prize will be 15s., or three fully-paid shares in the Minerva Publishing Co.; the second 10s., or two fully-paid-up shares; and the third 5s., or one fully-paid-up share. There will be a special VOTE Week, May 23rd to May 30th, particulars of which will be announced later. A VOTE At Home will be held June 2nd. New recruits to the Street-Selling Corps will be welcomed by Mrs. Snow, who will give them pitches if applied to at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

## "Suffragettes at Home."

Under the heading of "Suffragettes at Home" a series of photographs is appearing in THE VOTE which should be an object lesson to the male "anti" who so frequently requests us to "go home and do the washing," "mind the baby," or "darn the husband's socks." Mrs. Thomson-Price, one of our directors, is offering a prize of a guinea for the best photograph showing Suffragettes doing these and various other domestic duties. It is not necessary that all the subjects of the photographs should be important personages, but they must be members of the Women's Freedom League. We reserve the right to publish any of the photographs sent in. Competition photographs must be sent to the office of THE VOTE, 148, Holborn Bars, E.C., before next Saturday, April 9th.

## COMPETITION FOR RECEIPTS.

Owing to the interest taken in last month's competitions, and as the advertising is the mainstay of the paper, we have decided to encourage the keeping of receipts for goods bought from advertisers by our readers by continuing our offer of monthly prizes for the largest number sent in.

(1) The first prize for the largest number of receipts will be 10s., or two fully-paid-up shares in the Minerva Publishing Co.

(2) The second, for the largest total amount spent, will be 6s. 6d., or a year's subscription to THE VOTE, post free.

Entries for the first competition must be sent in before next Saturday, April 9th. The results will be announced in the issue dated April 16th.

## NOTICE.

Mrs. How Martyn is taking a holiday. During her absence Mrs. Amy Sanderson, a member of the N.E.C., will take her place at the office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., from April 1st to the 13th, and Mrs. Manson, another member, for the remainder of the time.

## ADVERTISING "AT HOMES."

Will all those members and friends who have any spare time to help us advertise our "At Homes" and meetings, either by distribution of handbills, chalking, sandwiching, or in any way, either call or write to me at the office, 1, Robert Street, stating which part of the work they will undertake, and how much time they are prepared to give?—E. LEYSON, Advertising Organiser.

\* \* \* The Editor desires to call the attention of members of the W.F.L. and other contributors to THE VOTE that no matter can be certain of publication in the current week's issue which arrives later than first post Monday morning. By adhering to this rule much annoyance will be saved on both sides.