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### Notes.

IN deference to the wishes of members of the Women's Freedom League we have promised to make this and the next issue of the paper 12 pages, but as we are relying on the payment of overdue subscriptions to meet the difference between an 8-page issue and a 12-page issue printing bill, we must warn our readers that unless financial support is immediately forthcoming we shall be obliged to stop publication after the next issue.

We hope next week to print a leading article with regard to the proposed new paper; but it is not our intention to issue the same until sufficient capital has been received to guarantee its continuance for at least two years.

### Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,

13, BREM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

### THE BUDGET.—Women should note that

September 29th is the last day for claiming any benefit or relief offered by it.

INCOME-TAX RETURNS are prepared, APPEALS conducted, and OVER-PAID TAX recovered by Mrs. E. AYRES PURDIE, A.L.A.A., Certified Accountant, and at present the only woman who is entitled, under the Revenue Act of 1903, to appear on behalf of a Client before the Special Commissioners of Income-Tax.

CRAVEN HOUSE, KINGSWAY, W.C.

WE are asked to mention that this week's *Christian Commonwealth* (September 1) contains a full report of Mr. Tim Healy's brilliant defence of Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, and others, in Bow Street Police-Court last Friday. Mr. Healy's speech is regarded by many who heard it, as the most eloquent and telling pronouncement that has yet been made in support of the present phase of the Women's Suffrage movement.



## International Women's Franchise Club.

FOR some time an increasing need has been felt for a central place where supporters of Women's Enfranchisement, of all shades of opinion, may meet in social and friendly intercourse. The idea has now taken shape, and an influential Committee has undertaken the preliminary work for the formation of "THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB"

"To be established in London for the advancement of the Political, Social, and Economic Enfranchisement of Women, both at home and abroad, and membership of such club to be open to men and women equally, without distinction of race, religion, party, or nationality."

The fact that the above was passed unanimously at an inaugural meeting sufficiently proves the width of the basis on which the Club will be founded. Here is no narrow, sectional body intended to forward the particular views of any section, nor is one sex only to be eligible for membership. The one bond of union for all is to be the belief in the right of women, as human beings and citizens, to take their share in the Country's Government. The aristocratic and timid Conservative, the rampant Radical, the Tariff Reformer, the Free Fooder, the Daylight Saver, and the Anti-vivisectionist may meet within the portals of the Club in support of the one cause on which they are all agreed, reserving their right, outside those portals to work, speak and agitate for the various other causes they have at heart. In the club smoking-room the Liberal Lion will offer cigarettes to the Conservative Lamb, while comparing notes as to the best methods of forwarding the Cause of Women's Suffrage without in the least prejudicing their right to oppose each others views on other subjects in the political arena.

The international aspect of the scheme is one of the most important; an interchange of ideas with Foreign or Colonial workers for the Cause can only stimulate and increase the enthusiasm of the men and women who are bearing the brunt of the battle at home. It is obvious, since the agitation all over the world has assumed such large proportions that a club of this kind is much needed, and there is no doubt when the matter is made sufficiently public that many men and women from all parts of the world will gladly avail themselves of its advantages.

It will be possible at the Club to obtain the latest literature and information on Suffrage matters both in England and abroad and visitors from the provinces will be sure of finding a welcome.

Names of those anxious to support such a Club are being received daily, and when a sufficient number has been reached suitable premises will be taken containing ordinary rooms for conversation, writing, smoking, and a large room or hall for meetings and discussions. The Subscription is fixed at one guinea per annum, and at first there will be no Entrance Fee. The arrangements will be in the hands of a committee consisting of twelve men and twelve women, half of whom retire each year, being eligible, however, for re-election. The Committee will elect the Chairman and President of the Club.

## The Suffrage in Other Lands.

**FRANCE.**—It is good news that the question of the municipal Suffrage is again to be raised in the French Parliament. Eight years ago the first Women's Suffrage Bill was introduced by M. Gautret, who wished to do away with the anomaly that made "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity" an exclusively male prerogative. This Bill was dropped without discussion, but even its introduction was a point gained. In 1906 another Bill was introduced by M. Dussaussoy, which dealt only with municipal Suffrage. That, too, was shelved, but not apparently for ever. Though its originator is dead, he has found a successor in M. Ferdinand Buisson, who a few days before the end of the session brought in a report on the original Bill. He proposes to give women the Franchise for all classes of council, *i.e. municipaux, généraux, and d'arrondissement*. Further he has added to the original Bill a proposal to make women eligible to all these bodies. This, he thinks, will obviate unnecessary delay. "Granted that it is well to advance by stages to full Suffrage for women, still there is no need to interpose unnecessary stages, which only complicate and delay accomplishment. It will be no more difficult to obtain the two rights than a single one, and it will be far more logical." Such is M. Buisson's own view; and we in England who have seen so much of incomplete acts that required immediate amendment, like our own "Local Government Act," can but applaud his decision.

The new French Union of Suffrage Societies is showing considerable activity. At present it is initiating inquiries with the object of compiling a list of representative men in favour of the Franchise for women. This is being conducted on the lines of the English inquiry.

**HUNGARY.**—The many Suffragists who had the pleasure of hearing Miss Rosika Schwimmer speak during the International Congress will not be surprised that the movement in Hungary is being carried on with undiminished enthusiasm and resourcefulness. Miss Schwimmer herself sends a report of events to the August *Jus Suffragii*. She says: "Our summer campaign is a busy and varied one. In the end of June we arranged a boat excursion. We hired a big steamer, which was decorated with an illumined legend in enormous letters: 'Votes for Women.' Many hundreds of our friends took part in the cruise, which along the beautiful banks of our capital excited a great deal of curiosity and interest. On board the guests were entertained with a mock election and some other pieces of propaganda." Clearly our Hungarian friends carried away a good many hints from England. We hear of their using illustrated post-cards and "Votes for Women" stamps, and publishing some of the designs of the British Artists' League with Hungarian wording. A leaflet has also been published giving 31 answers to the question "Why should women have votes?" "All newspapers printed it entire, the opponents added their comments. Some papers replied by giving 31 'reasons why women should have no votes.' The 31 answers, however, contained but one idea, *viz.*, that politics and maternity were incompatible, a precious argument which we dare say is pretty well known to our workers abroad."

## The Working Woman and the Vote.

BY A SCHOOL MANAGER.

"NOBODY of any position supports this movement. Do you know that it is simply and solely a lower middle class one?" Thus to the writer, not six months ago, a cultured and well-connected woman, with the air of one who has thought of something unanswerable to say against a disputable cause.

At this time of day it is hardly necessary to remark that the assertion would not hold water at the time it was uttered, since women and men of distinction have been associated from the beginning with the agitation for the Enfranchisement of Women; but the formation of the National Women's Conservative and Unionist League of Women's Suffrage has finally and rudely knocked the bottom out of the singularly thin objection.

Nevertheless it is quite true that the majority of well-off women in England do not wildly care whether they have the vote or not. The woman who has never had to lift a finger to earn any sort of wage, who has always had between her and the scorch of reality the fireproof curtain of guardianship and money, naturally is not the one who sees any point in clamouring for a vote. She is very well off as she is, and she only thinks of herself. "What fools these noisy women are to make this hullabaloo about the franchise! What on earth is the connexion between a woman and a vote, anyway?"

The conundrum is being answered by tens of thousands throughout the length and breadth of England. Every twenty-four hours brings proof of women's dawning realization of the vital connexion between the two things; and the sheltered woman who is content with her lot, knowing little and caring less for her sisters who are straining forward to what to them is their deadly-serious goal, may stay where she is, and thank God she does not need it.

There are sheltered women nevertheless who are working with might and main in the struggle for political freedom; giving their money, their influence, their health and time, to force out of the track the stupendous mass of inertia, of custom, prejudice, indifference and political gambling which still blocks the way, and has hitherto been like a veritable Sisyphus-stone, no sooner rolled to the point of achievement than it slips back to the bottom.

Yet perhaps the greater number of these "sheltered" women will not get a vote themselves by the Bill which all the Women's Societies have agreed to support, which has for its base the removal of the sex disability. The greater number will still be merged in the personalities of their male appendages, or would only be put on the registers by a contortion of the lodger franchise. But in spite of this these women think it worth while to back the cause with all the resources at their command; and the spirit of them is the spirit of one of the banners in the great Hyde Park Demonstration of June 21st—"Each for All."

Here and there the sheltered woman suffers from the inequality of our laws from the woman's point of view. She makes a bad investment in the marriage market, and finds that she has no legal security against the ill-treatment of her husband short of his bigamy, desertion, or personal violence; or she is left a widow, and discovers that, in the eyes of the law, she is not the parent of her child; or as a widow, perhaps with children, that her husband is permitted by law to leave all his money and property away from his family. And there is the injustice which is the most glaring and ridiculous of all the injustices done to women in the name of the law—the gross inconsistency of denying the woman employer the political rights accorded to her male employees.

But these and suchlike instances are the exception; and though the laws of marriage and divorce badly need revising from the standard of equality for men and women, it is not here that the direct pressure of women's will is most urgently needed.

It is in the huge and ever-increasing mass of wage-earners, already numbering over five million in Great Britain, that the leaven of the vote will work with the greatest and most immediate force; and it is chiefly for these voiceless millions of toilers, and for those who are to come after them, that the leavened women are fighting for the vote to-day.

It was the pitiful object-lesson of the women workers in great cities which converted Madame Melba into a Suffragist; which has sent women like Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Drummond, and Miss Kenney to Holloway. It is the sufferings and the needs of the women strugglers in the grim world-factory which is the paramount force in the mighty flood which, rising hour by hour, withstood by the rigid breakwaters of politicians, is going to break those breakwaters and come at last into its own.

Mr. Henry W. Nevinson, in a letter to the editor of *The Nation*, on November 21st, 1908, reminds him, on his saying that many women exaggerate the importance of the vote, "that the very first law passed in Finland after women obtained the Franchise equalized the wages of women and men;

and, I believe, similar laws have been passed in all the Australian States since women voted. Men's wages have steadily risen since the Reform Act of 1884, while women's have declined. The Sweating Commission, which strongly urged legislation twenty years ago in the matter of women's work, has had no result, for the reason that women cannot enforce legislation."

Mr. Pethick Lawrence in his introduction to Miss Annie Kenney's sketch 'Prison Faces,' says:—"Miss Kenney has striven in factory and workshop to gain for women a better economic position; but she sees that behind these things lies the inferiority of women's status, typified by the inferiority of her political status, and that this must be put right if woman is to regain her position." "Can any working man," says Miss Kenney, "who rightly insists that his point of view shall be heard in the House of Commons, think it right that when questions come on for treatment in Parliament vitally affecting our position, we working women should be entirely unrepresented? Laws are being made regulating the labour of women in various ways; it is utterly wrong if these laws are carried by men not responsible in any way to the women whom they will affect. It is not that we believe that the interests of men and women are antagonistic; on the contrary, we believe that they are essentially bound up together; but that is only one reason the more why we should have our voice heard in all things that affect those interests."

Mr. Zangwill, with his fine passion for submerged humanity, which is not limited to those of his own race, has well summed up the case for the working woman:—

"Ladies and gentlemen, strong as the Women's Suffrage party is in brilliant women of our London world, its life-sap comes, I venture to think, from where so much of the energy, the wisdom, and the earnestness of England reside—from the provinces. Were it only a metropolitan exotic, a society luxury, it would soon pine away. But its roots go deep into our national soil, and draw their sustenance and vitality from all those myriads of obscure underground working women. These working women are *not* womanly, they are *not* domestic. True, they still weave and spin for man, but no longer by their own hearths. They must leave their homes and their babes to become machines in a world of machinery. And we men, we hypocrites, who prate so much of womanliness and domesticity, what care have we had for these? No vote can make them so unwomanly as not having a vote has made them. Perhaps, on the contrary, the vote may be the only means of bringing them back to womanliness. For only since the working men in those dismal towns have had a vote has their lot become at all human."

"What Christianity cannot do, what charity cannot do, what all the thunder of your Carlyles and your Ruskins cannot do, a simple vote does. For fifty years now woman has stood crying: 'I stand for justice—answer, shall I have it?' And the answer has been a mocking 'No,' or a still more mocking 'Yes.' To-day she calls upon Parliament to have done with this flabby friendliness, this policy of endless evasion. To-day she cries: 'I fight for justice, and I answer that I shall have it.'"

A SCHOOL MANAGER.

## Bill Stubbs on "Suffragettes"—A Recitation.

(BY LOUISA THOMSON-PRICE).

Wot? Suffragettes? Me go an' 'ear 'em? No bloomin' fears!

I don't 'old wiv 'em! I tell yer strite—if my ole gal jined the Suffragettes, I wouldn't leave a 'ole bone in her body! But she aint sich a bally idgiot. Lizzie-Ann knows when she's well horf. She sits at 'ome and minds the 'ouse an' kids—leastways she runs round and minds 'em when she aint doin' a bit o' charin' or washin'.

Wot do a woman wots got a lovin' 'usband an' five kids want wiv a vote?



They aint all got 'usbands? Well—no. Cos why? There aint enuff of us men to go round. Wot I sez is this. There's too many females altogether. They're over-runnin' the country. My mate, Jim Wiggins, sez to me, the other day, when we wuz 'avin' a pipe an' a glass together in the "Blue Cow"—(Jim's a bit of a scholar and gets readin' books out o' the East 'Am Library). Sez Jim, sez 'ee, "Why," 'ee sez, they don't 'ave none o' this 'ere Suffragette foolishness in Chiner. They suffocates the gal-children, when they're born," 'ee sez, "an' don't let no more of 'em live than they got a call for. That's the way, Matey," sez 'ee, "keep 'em down! The women over 'ere 'll get the hupper 'and, if we men don't look spry, an' teach 'em wunst fer all, that we wuz—iz—an' ever shall be the lords o' Creation."

Jim sez 'ee seed some o' these 'ere Suffragettes a marchin' in a procession on a Saturday arternoon, a goin' to the Halbert 'All, an' a catchin' 'old of a lot o' bloomin' banners, wiv "Votes for Women" stuck orl over 'em. Jim sez it wuz one o' the biggest processions he ever seed. There wuz old 'uns an' young 'uns; sum of 'em looked like tip-top lides, an' sum of 'em warnt no better dressed than my Lizzie-Ann. Well, there wuz sich a lot of 'em that the Perlice 'ad to keep stoppin' the procession so as to reggerlate the traffic, an' every time they come to a 'alt, Jim, he kep a arskin of 'em questions.

"Why don't yer go 'ome an' do the washin,'" sez 'ee to a female as was 'oldin' up one side of a banner, wot 'ad got the words "Give us Justice" printed on it. "Why," sez she, "don't yer know as its Saturday arternoon? We got all our washin' done last Monday, an' 'ad it dried an' mangled an' ironed by Toosday. We don't do our washin' on Saturday arternoon, young man," sez she, an' then the crowd larfed, an' Joe 'Orkins called out "Ad yer that time, Jim!"

Jim took it allright, as a bit of a joke, but wot 'ee sez 'ee don't like is as these 'ere women seems in sich bloomin' earnest.

One of 'em tackled me when I wuz comin' out o' the "Blue Cow" one day last week, when the 'lection was on.

"I wants yer to come to this 'ere meetin' to night," sez she, a tryin' to push a bit o' paper into me 'and.

"Wot? Come to your meetin'?" sez I, "not 'arf! That's a little bit o' orl right, that is! D'yer fink I aint got nuffink better to do wiv my orff time than to come an' listen to a lot o' bally women gassin' about their bloomin' rights? Wot does yer 'usband think o' sich goins on, my good woman," sez I, "tell me that."

"Why," sez she, "'ee's in favour of it. 'Ees one o' the speakers."

"Then more shame to 'im," sez I. "Wots comin' to the man 'ood o' this country if 'usbands is goin' to get hup in public an' say as they believes their wives 'as rights?"

"But yer believes in the rights o' man, don't yer?" she sez.

"Yus," sez I. "I believes in the rights o' man, but women 'as dooties, not rights."

"Name some of 'em," sez she. "Wot does yer wife do, when she's a workin'?"

"Well," I sez; "My Lizzie-Ann aint perfeckshun. I never met the woman as wuz yet!—but, fer a good sloggin' day's work, there aint many as can beat her. She ups at six in the mornin', lights the fire, biles the kettle, an' brings me in a cup o' tea. Then she feeds the biby, washes an' dresses three o' the children (two of 'ems old enough to see to theirselves). Arter that she gets my breakfast an' gives the children a bite (she 'as 'ers, comfortable like, when she's washin' up). When the kids 'av' gorn to school, she does a bit o' tidyin' up, peels the pertaters an' gets the bit o' dinner ready for Em'ly-Ann (that's our eldest gal) to cook when she comes 'ome from school. Then the ole woman goes out to do a bit o' charin' or washin' (wich o' coorse she must do when I'm out o' himpment—an' works bin scarce for the workin' man hever since them forriners wuz let into this country to take the bread out o' honest Hinglish mouths). Wen she comes 'ome at night, there's a sossidge or a 'errin to cook fer my supper, an' wen the kids 'as 'ad a slice

o' bread an' drippin' or treacle, she an' Em'ly-Ann 'as got to put 'em to bed. Then, when I goes hout to the "Blue Cow" fer a quiet pipe she can do 'er own scrubbin' or washin' or mendin' in peace. I don't trubble 'er. I aint one o' them naggin' worritin' 'usbands as never lets a wife alone, an' as long as I gets me meals reglar an' decent, an' she keeps the kids out o' me way wen I comes 'ome tired, I never lays a 'and on 'er, not I. There," sez I, "thems Lizzie-Ann's dooties, an' she aint got no time for Suffragetin', an' wots more, she's a self-respectin' woman, an' leaves politics an' votin' and a upholdin' of the honour o' the country to 'er 'usband."

"Well," sez this 'ere Suffragette, "your wife suttingly don't seem to have no time to come to meetins, but she's a workin' woman, an' the conferrin' o' the Franchise ud 'elp to raise the ekernomic condition o' sich as 'er."

"Wot yer means," sez I, "is as yer'd take the vote from a married man an' giv it to 'is wife?"

"Yer don't quite understand," sez she. "Wot we're a arskin' fer is that the vote should be given to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men. Them as 'as to pay the piper," sez she, "should call the toon. We Suffragettes berlieve that them as earns the bread an' supports the 'ome should 'ave a right to vote, an' it aint a question o' sex but o' justice. All women 'as to obey the lers, an' some of 'em pays taxes, but they aint allowed no voice in decidin' wot the lers an' the taxes should be. You men," she sez, "are allus a makin' lers for us women, restrictin' our himpment, an' directin' us as to 'ow we're to look arter our children, an' hinterferin' generally with the 'ome life, and though you lords o' Creation is allus a sayin' as women makes the 'omes, an' 'omes makes the nation, yer takes jolly good care not to give the women 'arf a chanct to say whether they approves o' these 'ere lers—or whether they don't."

"Well," sez I, tryin' to mollify 'er a bit, "I'm not sayin' as there mightn't be a few women—widders an' ole maids, an' sich like—them as pays taxes like men—who might, in a manner o' speakin' be given a vote, but there! the wust o' women his, if yer gives 'em a hinch, they'll take a hell. Once let 'em kick over the traces, an' they'll be horf like light'nin'—the Lord knows where. Keep a tight 'and on 'em," sez I. "We knows where we is now, but if we guv women the vote, yer may take it from me, the men 'ud 'ave to take a back seat!"

Wiv that, blow me, if she didn't bust hout a larfin'. "Why," sez she, "yer aint afraid of 'em, are yer?"

"No," I sez, a lookin' at 'er strite in the heye. "A Britisher haint afraid o' nuffink nor nobody!"

"Look 'ere, my good man," sez she, "Honest, now! Did yer ever know a woman as 'ad made up 'er mind to get a thing as didn't get it, somehow?"

"Well, I don't know as I 'er hever did," sez I. "They're that bloomin' hartful."

"Then," she sez, "don't you make no mistake. We're a goin' to get the Vote!"—an' before I'd 'ad time to get me breff, she jumps straight into a motor-bus whiles it was still a'goin'. I felt that flabbergasted that I 'ad to go into the "Blue Cow" an' 'ave a glass.

*Them Suffragettes takes the cake!*

### Correspondence.

[The Proprietors of 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' do not necessarily identify themselves in any way with the opinions expressed by their Correspondents.]

DEAR SIR.—The Isle of Sheppey is neither the Isle of Dogs nor the Isle of Thanet (though I have repeatedly been told that it is), but just itself, the Isle of Sheep, "Sceapige" of the Saxons, a real island, though forming part of the county of Kent. The twin ports of Queenborough and Sheerness occupy its western angle, and that half of the island is like a bit of Holland—green flats, ditches between, herds of contented cattle, and a glorious expanse of sky. Travel to the eastern district, and you are in a new country. Here are undulating sheep pastures, cornfields, woods, and little coppices, secluded villages, quiet lanes, and

best of all, cliffs and a view to the open sea. The highest point of the island is crowned by the abbey church of Minster-in-Sheppey (not to be confused with Minster-in-Thamet) and the village of Minster climbs up to the church. Here, on a grassy triangle outside the churchyard, a group of about fifty villagers and visitors assembled on Wednesday, August 11th, to hear the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell speak on Woman's Suffrage. She was supported by Mr. W. A. Jewson of the Men's League, Mrs. Jewson of the National Women's Social and Political Union, and Miss Dawson, a Suffragist from Philadelphia, U.S.A. It was, as far as I know, the first Woman's Suffrage meeting ever held in Sheppey island, and no more appropriate spot could have been chosen for the occasion. Among the famous Saxon women of Kent, beginning with the Christian Queen Bertha, two of the most distinguished belonged to Sheppey. Sexburga, queen and saint, to whom Minster Abbey Church is dedicated, was daughter to Annas, king of the East Anglians, wife to Ercombert, King of Kent, and mother to two succeeding Kings of Kent. She founded and ruled over a monastery for Benedictine nuns on the hill of Minster. In later life she became Abbess of Ely, and was succeeded in Minster by her daughter Princess Ermenilda, who in her turn became Abbess of Ely. The old Gate House, close to the church, is all that remains of the monastery buildings, but the records of the Abbey and of other important sites in Sheppey have been carefully studied by the Rev. W. Bramston, M.A., Vicar of Minster (who was present at our meeting), and printed in an attractive form ('History of the Abbey Church of Minster').

Mrs. Russell, introduced by Mr. Jewson, made a bright and attractive speech, which was at the same time a clear piece of reasoning. The audience went away saying they would have liked to hear more.

Encouraged by this success, the little band of Suffragists organized a second meeting for Saturday, the 14th. The scene of action was Eastchurch, the platform an open cab, kindly lent by Mr. Woollett of the "Crooked Billet," and the background fields, trees, and the imposing Gatehouse of Shurland Hall, the last surviving portion of twelve noble quadrangles where Sir Thomas Cheyne of Shurland, attended by 300 men-at-arms and retainers, received Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn on an October day of the year 1532. The King was on his way to France to meet Francis I. for the second time, the real, though not publicly announced, object of his visit being to secure the divorce of Katherine of Aragon, and he had taken the jewels of the unfortunate queen to deck her rival for the French visit.

Again Mr. Jewson made an efficient and genial chairman. Mrs. Russell's speech, touching on some points not mentioned at Minster, was much appreciated by an audience of about a hundred residents and visitors. The Rector of Eastchurch, the Rev. R. H. Dickson, who contributed the genealogical table of Saint Sexburga to Mr. Bramston's book, was also present.

Some most intelligent Eastchurch people, whom we should have liked to see at the meeting, stayed away because they were busy, and could not spare time to be arrested. If they had seen the district constable's friendly welcome to us they would no doubt have thought it a mere necessary ceremony, like the prize-fighters' handshake before the "set-to."

After Mrs. Russell's speech it was my pleasant duty to announce the formation of a new branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies for Sheppey Island. Funds had already been collected at Minster to the amount of 2s. 5½d., but at Eastchurch the audience was larger. Coppers, and even silver, flew, "to make it more than Minster," and the result was 5s. 8d. The total will be handed over to the new society as soon as a local hon. secretary can be appointed.

If this should "meet the eye" of any one who knows of possible future members in Sheerness, Queenborough, or other parts of Sheppey Island, I shall be glad to receive names and addresses *pro tem*.

Yours, &c.,  
K. RALEIGH.

Cliff Cottage, Eastchurch, Kent.

P.S.—Home address: Miss K. Raleigh, 8, Park Road, Uxbridge.

### National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

**CHELTHENHAM** (N.U.W.S.S.).—Our proposed meeting at Swindon—a village of a score of houses—had to be postponed on account of heavy rain last Friday. The place was canvassed, however, in the morning, and leaflets were left, some of the cottagers being much interested. One woman, who had worked all her married life to support husband and children, declared emphatically that the restriction of married women's labour would "never do." All were friendly, and many promised to come and hear us. We may be able to go this week. Churchdown and Winchcombe are places we think of working also.

Very few of the local N.U.W.S.S. members are qualified to apply to have their names put on the Parliamentary register, but I have heard of twelve applications so far, and there may be others.  
THEODORA MILLS.

**CUMBERLAND; KESWICK** (N.U.W.S.S.).—The open-air campaign in the Egremont Division planned for September 4th–11th is postponed owing to the illness of Mrs. Harrison Bell, who was to have been the principal speaker.

**MONTROSE** (N.U.W.S.S.).—Two meetings were arranged by Miss Macgregor of Abbeltenne, at the Young Men's Christian Institute, at 3 and 8 o'clock on Friday, 27th August. The chair was taken by Mrs. Mackintosh of Arbroath in the afternoon, by Mrs. Inverarity of Rosemount in the evening. Mrs. C. C. Stopes spoke on "Why should Women want the Vote?" showing how much they needed its protection and why they should have it. Mrs. Stanbury gave a practical address on the need of freedom to develop the individual and the nation. Thanks were returned by a local resident.

In the evening meeting Mrs. Stopes pointed out the fallacies of the anti-suffragist arguments, and Mrs. Stanbury dwelt on the need of filling the House with sympathizers, and the necessity of keeping these up to the mark. A working man rose to speak on the subject, and said that he and his friends had come to advocate the Women Suffragists' cause, and a man from New Zealand supported him.

### Meetings of the N.U.W.S.S.

SEPT.				
Wed.	8.	Cumberland, Open-air Meeting, Littletown, Newlands, near Keswick	Miss C. E. Marshall Mr. J. R. Brooke	6.30
Fri.	10.	Open-air Meeting, Rosthwaith, Borrowdale, near Keswick	Miss C. E. Marshall Mr. J. R. Brooke	6.30
Nov.	18.	Cheltenham, Town Hall	Hon. Sir John Coskburn, 8 K.C.M.G. (ex-Premier of South Australia)	

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## VOTES FOR WOMEN.

## Women's Freedom League.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.

NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc. A.R.C.S. Hon. Treasurer: MISS BENNETT.  
Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.  
President: MRS. DESPARD. Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

## Pickets and the Premier.

## At Caxton Hall.

ONCE again we have achieved the seemingly impossible, and filled Caxton Hall to overflowing in the middle of the dog days. If anything had been lacking to prove the deep interest and widespread sympathy aroused by the Downing Street arrests, Thursday's meeting would have supplied it. Side by side with our regular members and sympathizers were scores of unfamiliar faces, many of whom we then saw for the first time, but not, they assured us, for the last. For our sandwich-women had gone out far and wide throughout the city, our handbills had been scattered broadcast, and in some small degree the enormity of the whole proceeding had been borne in upon the people of London. Men were there in equal numbers with the women, a hopeful sign, for they represented that race of beings greater than human, the real supermen of to-day—the electors!

The remanded prisoners were received with rousing cheers as they took their places upon the platform. We thought it would have been their last public appearance for some time; but events have proved us wrong. Larger meetings have been held, but rarely one more inspiring. The atmosphere was alive, tingling with enthusiasm and vitality. There was that sense of something greater in the air which makes devotees of cynics.

Mrs. How Martyn was in the chair, and announced the great news of the evening—that Mr. Tim Healy had been retained as counsel for the morrow. The applause aroused by the name of the great Irish K.C. could only have been equalled by the consternation with which the same announcement must have been received in the Cabinet. Five of the remanded prisoners then addressed the meeting. First came Miss Irene Tillard, the first to be arrested, who, as the solicitor said, will probably go down to history as a "test case." Mrs. Despard followed, speaking fiercely of true politics and of freedom. Mrs. Hicks, Miss Bunten, and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson spoke in turn. An appeal for funds to fight the case was made, which met with a most generous response—over 130l. being subscribed.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Kenneth Richmond, speaking from the audience, in a delightfully humorous little speech, proposed the following resolution: "That the men present at this meeting wish to offer their profound sympathy and most hearty good wishes to the eight ladies who are to stand their trial to-morrow." This was seconded by Mr. Moore and supported by the Rev. C. Hinscliffe and Mr. Albery. For once we waived our rights, and without demur allowed the masculine part of the audience to vote alone. The resolution was carried amid great enthusiasm, only two male members of the audience having the temerity to vote against.

## At Bow Street.

THE case of the prisoners arrested on August 19th last is still *sub judice*, the decision having been further adjourned for a week. It seems to be giving the magistrates "furiously to think"—and other people besides. The voice of adverse comment is curiously silent: every one is waiting the issue of events.

At 11.30 on Friday morning Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, Mrs. Hicks, Mrs. Hyde, Mrs. Cranstoun, Miss Bunten, Miss Boileau, and Miss Tillard were brought up for trial. Before the case came on they were in the court chatting to their friends. When the Court adjourned for lunch they wandered about as freely as the most indifferent spectator. Bow Street was crowded, and from an early hour the public were waiting in queues outside.

The presiding magistrate was Mr. Curtis Bennett; Mr. Barker (Messrs. Wontner & Sons) prosecuted; Mr. T. M. Healy, K.C., M.P., and Mr. D. Owen Evans (instructed by Messrs. Baker & Baker) defended, while Mr. Gervaise Rentoul attended on behalf of the Freedom League.

The defendants were charged with "obstructing the police in the execution of their duty," and Mr. Barker's case was woven around four points: (1) The defendants were armed with a "remonstrance," not a petition; (2) That every right must be exercised reasonably; (3) That Superintendent Wells had personally warned Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson the previous day that if they remained there he might have to arrest them; (4) That no one had any right to compel the Prime Minister to receive a petition. Superintendent Wells, Inspectors Jarvis and Smalley, and other officers on duty were called as witnesses, from whom Mr. Healy endeavoured to extract some definition of the duty in which they were obstructed.

After lunch Mr. Healy rose for the defence, and for an hour and twenty minutes held the Court entranced. Surely the walls of Bow Street have never before heard such fiery eloquence! No witnesses were called, and within three minutes the whole sordid atmosphere of the police-court had slipped away. The case had been bodily removed to a different plane—a plane where large generalities, freedom, liberty, justice, and constitutional right could move untrammelled. Logic, passion, humour, indignation, pathos, and sparkling wit trod upon each other's heels; great issues were unloosed essentially bound up with humanity and the common weal. The legal, constitutional, and moral rights of the women petitioners were all firmly established. Space forbids a full report in the pages of the *Franchise*; to give extracts from this wonderful speech would be to wrong the orator, and so Mr. Healy's defence is being published verbatim in pamphlet form.

At 3.20 the magistrate retired to consider his decision, and after nearly an hour's absence intimated that he should postpone judgment for a week. The defendants meantime renewed their personal undertaking not to picket either Downing Street or the House of Commons.

As the defendants left the Court they were cheered to the echo by the crowd which had assembled outside. For the second time they had been reprieved from Holloway. So now we can only wait to see what next Friday will bring forth.

M. NELSON.

## From the Aberdeen Evening Gazette.

"IN some quarters it is believed that the Suffrage will not be granted until the Opposition come into power. It is argued that the measure of enfranchisement which Conservatives will grant will be based upon a property qualification such as will secure a majority of Conservative voters among the women placed on the Parliamentary register. Should this state of matters arise, it will be regarded by many as a just visitation upon Liberal politicians who have so long delayed putting their party principles into operation.

"THE picketing that is going on between Downing Street and the House of Commons is likely to culminate in a tragedy for the present occupant of No. 10 and his colleagues in the present Ministry. It would be well for the Liberal Party, in view of the many changes that are at present going on in the economy of British politics that they should take this matter seriously to heart during the coming recess. It would be good party business as well as a real measure of justice that the King's speech next session should include a measure for the enfranchisement of tax-paying women."

## Against Prejudice.

A Reply to Prof. Dicey by W. Lyon Blease. Published by the Women's Freedom League. (4d.)

THE usual Anti-Suffrage arguments—and arguers—are like the historic walls of Londonderry—you could batter them down with roasted apples! But in Prof. Dicey we have an opponent of a somewhat different calibre. His voice is the voice of authority, for has he not been constituted the prophet and high priest of the Anti-Suffrage faith? A faint flicker of light seems at times to play around his forehead: it is as though one of the immortals had stepped down into this Grecian conflict. His assumption of judicial impartiality to some extent obscures the innate prejudice and lopsidedness of his arguments.

In Mr. Lyon Blease's pamphlet 'Against Prejudice,—an Answer to Prof. Dicey,' this attempt to justify the ways of man to woman is shown up in all its specious hollowness. With the keenest critical acumen Mr. Blease picks out all the weakest spots in his opponent's armour; logic, clear-sighted, piercing, inexorable, dispels one by one the mists of false sentiment and error with which Prof. Dicey has befogged his mind; and finally the great professor stands, a sorry figure, his armour seen to be of pasteboard, his sword of painted wood.

A firm grasp of political principles, a wide and tolerant view of men and matters, historical, legal, philosophic, and literary knowledge are concentrated into the forty-eight pages 'Against Prejudice.' A style trenchant, lucid, vigorous, yet restrained fits the author admirably for his encounter with the eminent professor. Argument after argument is reduced to an absurdity, apparent syllogisms are turned inside out, fallacy after fallacy is revealed, until the dreadful dragoons of the Anti-Suffragists, stripped of their tinsel and limelight effects, stand out a skeleton army with the wind whistling through their bones.

Prof. Dicey has reserved all his heaviest artillery to defend the proposition that all Government is ultimately based on brute force. Mr. Lyon Blease has marshalled his troops to correspond: much of the best reasoning is found under this heading.

Here are a few extracts:—

"The whole basis of representative Government is the substitution of reason and argument for the blind struggle of classes." "The man who considers remote possibilities dies in despair. . . . There is no contrivance of the human intellect, political or other, which does not involve some danger to society."

"Arguing that women cannot perform a duty which falls upon one man in ten thousand once in the course of a generation, he deprives them of a right which affects the usual incidents and relations of every day of their lives."

Enough has been said to show that this little book of Mr. Lyon Blease's should be in the hands of every Suffragist. A confirmed Diceyist is sometimes a little difficult to argue with, owing to the skill—or stupidity—with which he persists in confusing two parallel lines of thought. If any of our readers have experienced this difficulty, Mr. Lyon Blease's keen logical reasoning cannot fail to be of the greatest assistance.

MURIEL NELSON.

## Our Work—Past, Present, and Future.

## SOUTH WALES CAMPAIGN.

WE held a successful meeting on Tuesday afternoon at the Hotel Métropole, the rendezvous of the Metal Exchange men. Their wives and daughters came, too, so although we had "bearded the lions in their own den," a gentle influence was introduced—Women *versus* Suffragettes. Many of the "women" became "Suffragettes" during the afternoon! Sir William Treacher, K.C.M.G., who had come down from London specially for this meeting, took the chair. His speech was an appeal to the men to make their womenfolk as free as the women in those parts of the world where the Suffrage has been granted. The meeting was unique in its way, and did, we believe, much good. Mrs. Cleeves made an appeal for funds. With the colliers at Ystalifera on Wednesday night we had a splendid time. Sir William Treacher again presided, and Mr. Cleeves and I were the speakers. If we could work amongst the colliers for three months we should have a power at our back at the General Election. The quaint old borough of Cowbridge held its annual fair at St. Mary's Hill on Thursday, and thither we went. In

the Town Hall that night Sir William Treacher and I addressed a crowded meeting. Everything had been arranged by Miss F. A. Thomas, who also paid all expenses connected with the meeting. To Miss Thomas and other local sympathizers we are grateful for the fine success they achieved.

The greatest of all the Welsh tin-plate works are at Llanelly, and there we went on Friday to address a splendid gathering, who had responded to the pavement-chalked invitation from Mrs. Cleeves. Some of the "youthlets" resented the suggestion that women were men's equals, and expressed their views in song, but at the end of the meeting they provided themselves with a good deal of literature, and went their way in a more harmonious frame of mind.

We had the help of Mrs. Fagan and Mrs. Beith at our mass meeting in Victoria Park on Saturday afternoon. They spoke from the first platform, with Mr. Cleeves as chairman. The speakers at the second platform were Mrs. Cleeves, Sir William Treacher, and myself. Over 5,000 people were present, our resolutions were carried almost unanimously, and a great amount of literature was sold.

We are grateful to our London helpers, as well as to the members of the local branch, who helped in various ways. Any sympathizers in Aberystwith, Aberdare, Abergavenny, Merthyr, Brecon, please communicate with me at Chez-Nous, Sketty R.S.O., Glamorgan. MURIEL MATTERS (Organizer).

## MIDDLESBROUGH AND DISTRICT.

COMING fresh from the dales, the smoke and sordidness of a district such as this has a stifling effect. On Monday night, at the request of Mrs. Coates-Hansen, I spoke to the electors of the Newport ward, of which Mrs. Coates-Hansen is the representative on the Board of Guardians. Our way lay through long streets of miserable hovels—"homes of the people" they are called—and the lorry from which we were to speak stood in the midst of hundreds of such homes on a plot of land waiting to receive more of these wretched buildings. Near by were some men attempting to find relaxation from the day's toil—probably that of looking for work—in a game of quoits. There was not a bit of green to be seen, nothing but greyness, and smoke. As it grew dark the glare of the furnaces lit up the sky and the reek of the molten metal filled the air from time to time. And the people who were before us! Here were little children, shrivelled and wizened into old men and women, and the grown folk pallid and hollow-cheeked, bent with hunger and weariness and the lack of honest, healthy toil. It was hard to talk to these of votes. After the speeches the men came crowding round and promised interesting questions for the meeting at the Market Place on Wednesday, when Mrs. Sanderson was coming down to speak.

On Wednesday, unfortunately, the weather was most unfriendly, and we dared hardly hope a crowd would stand. Suffragettes, however, are not daunted by weather, and seeing over 1,000 people waiting we determined to conduct the advertised meeting. Soon after we commenced the rain came even more heavily, but Mrs. Sanderson continued speaking, and the crowd remained over two hours. There was no shortage of questions, which occupied almost an hour. Once again the Women's Freedom League held another of the finest meetings ever held in Middlesbrough, in spite of the weather.

On Thursday I went down to Stockton to reconnoitre and rout out any Suffragettes or possible ones, and even to hold a meeting at the Market Cross. I was warned not to attempt the latter—terrible things had happened at the last held by some local ladies. Then I was told if I were bent upon a meeting I ought not to advertise, or there would be organized opposition—Stockton was so terrible. All these warnings only emphasized the need of Stockton to be won over for the Suffrage, so I decided to return the next day to make an attack. Miss Amy Mahoney accompanied me on Friday morning, and furnished with hearthstone we prepared for the onslaught. We succeeded in writing two notices in the High Street. Then an unfriendly policeman took Miss Mahoney's name and address—the second occasion this week when she has been so honoured. By this time our meeting was well advertised, and we spent the next few hours visiting. At 7.30 p.m. we returned, accompanied by Mrs. Coates-Hansen. An enormous crowd awaited us, numbering several



thousands. Again we were warned, and informed that if we attempted to speak we should be "smashed." Well, we held our meeting, and a magnificent one it was. There was not the slightest hostility, and even in Stockton were hearty cheers for "Votes for Women" and the speakers.

North Country sympathizers are urged to communicate with me at once and arrange for work. Address: Northgate, Roman Road, Middlesbrough. ALICE SCHOFIELD (Organizer).

#### LIVERPOOL AND NORTH WALES.

At Llandudno last Saturday, in spite of the adverse attitude of the police, a very successful meeting was held on the shore by Miss Broadhurst, M.A., and myself. There was a little preliminary trouble with the police, who refused to allow us to hold our meeting. Meantime a large and interested audience had gathered, a fact which, coupled with the suspicion that the police were acting beyond their authority, decided us to take all risks. And so we proceeded with a large meeting, at which we gained both members and friends. A keen interest was displayed at question-time, and much good-humoured applause greeted Miss Broadhurst's pointed and witty answers. We feel recompensed by the interest shown in the Freedom League, and repeated requests for us to come again.

At Bangor we joined forces with Miss Manning and held a successful meeting—Miss Manning, B.A., presiding, and Miss Neill of Manchester speaking. Miss Manning and her party having to leave early to catch a train we then took up the meeting as a result of calls from the crowd, who evinced great interest in Marie Corelli's letter, and stayed on for questions till 10 o'clock. Great amusement was caused by Miss Broadhurst's ignorance of the way of fathers at times of vaccination. A really serious fight followed, with a large body of blind supporters of Mr. Asquith, but though fierce, it was friendly, and a promise to continue the debate next Monday was received with cheers.

On Tuesday we attended a garden party at the Marquis of Anglesey's. A visit was paid to Bethesda, early on Wednesday morning to prospect for a meeting. Several friends were found, and meetings at Bethesda will take place on Saturday. As a result of calling in Carnarvon the same afternoon five new members were made for the Freedom League, and keen sympathizers and supporters of the militant policy were found in the vicar, a man of great influence, and in the Rev. Evan Jones, who had written in favour of "Votes for Women" in the year 1871.

Much visiting was also done in Bangor where we met the same sympathy and interest. Several new members were added, and we have now long lists of sympathizers and prominent people on whom we intend to call. In North Wales there is tremendous work to be done. We need voluntary workers and donations. Letters to be sent to 25, Canning Street.

MARGARET MILNE FARQUHARSON (Organizer).

#### TORQUAY.

On Wednesday, August 25th, in fine weather, a successful meeting was held at Torquay under the joint auspices of members of the Women's Freedom League, Women's Social and Political Union, and Men's League. Miss Baker, and Dr. and Mrs. Macpherson took part. A representative audience attended, in numbers increased by the regatta. Great interest was shown, and the presence of a small and determined, although unintellectual opposition (partly alcoholic) distinctly helped the cause. Questions were many, and a considerable quantity of literature was sold and distributed. Discussions followed, which were still in progress when the speakers left. J. F. MACPHERSON.

#### CARAVAN IN EAST ANGLIA.

We have been fortunate this week, as the weather has been bad, in having rooms lent us, both at Acle and Lingwood, by the kindness of the Rev. S. Young and Mr. Fuller. At both places the people seem really interested. Miss Law joined us on Friday, and will be our chief speaker at Yarmouth, to which place we move on Monday. On Saturday we expect to reach Lowestoft, and shall go on later to Beccles, Southwold, Dunwich, and Aldeburgh. I shall be most glad to have names of sympathizers in or near these places, and to hear of any enclosed place where the caravan could stand. VIOLET TILLARD (Organizer).

#### CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

THIS week has been an exceptionally busy one on the Clyde, for Miss Murray was able to spend four days helping, so that eighteen meetings have been held. At Ayr we were told that we should be arrested if we chalked the pavements, so we inquired for the Town Crier. Finding no such person existed, we bought a bell, and went through the principal streets in the town "crying" our meetings, with the result that, in spite of stormy weather, large crowds assembled to hear us. At Kilwinning eager inquiries were made as to when we were going to visit the town again. Prestwick, Largs, Millport, Kilmarnock, Wemyss Bay, and Rothesay have also been visited, and the large and attentive crowds have again borne witness to the ever-increasing interest in the "Votes for Women" movement. Resolutions have been passed at every meeting by large majorities—the two or three opponents never, by any chance, having the courage to state their objection. Possibly they were afraid we should remove it, and they would be forced to the other side. When we ask if there is really no one with an objection to votes for women, it is quite the rule for stentorian voices to shout in chorus "No."

MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY (Organizer).

#### CARAVAN IN BERKSHIRE.

UNFORTUNATELY Miss Munro's report did not reach us in time for full publication. The van is now at Newbury and will go on to Reading at the end of the week. Miss Munro is due back in Scotland, and Mrs. Manson will kindly take over the charge.

#### HYDE PARK.

AN unusually large crowd assembled in Hyde Park on Sunday, and although the meeting was prolonged beyond the usual hour, the attention was profound. The first speaker was Mrs. Despard, who was greeted with cheers. She referred to the recent legal trial, and urged on the men not to allow the liberties their forefathers had won to be snatched from them. With great feeling and pathos she spoke of the ideal future, when men and women hand in hand would rear a finer, nobler race, and purer, better social conditions would prevail. Mrs. Marianne Hyde, who was in the chair, then in a few words introduced Mrs. Merivale Mayer (Australia), who gave an account of what the women's vote had done for Australia and New Zealand. She spoke on the influence they had brought to bear on equalizing the wages of men and women, and the establishing of wages boards, by which means a living wage was secured for all workers. One of the first acts after women were enfranchised was the establishment of an old age pension of 10s. per week for persons over sixty-five years of age. She scornfully repudiated the suggestion that women were less patriotic than men, and referred to the words of the Prince of Wales on his return from opening the Federal Parliament: "Wake up, England!" In conclusion, she said the present unseemly struggle was rendering Great Britain ridiculous in the eyes of foreign nations.

MARIANNE C. HYDE.

#### Special Notices.

##### MR. HEALY'S SPEECH.

THE magnificent speech of Mr. T. M. Healy, K.C., M.P., in defence of the Women's Freedom League prisoners at Bow Street on August 27th is being published in pamphlet form, and can be obtained from the Literature Secretary at 1, Robert Street, price 1d.

A JUMBLE AND SWEETS SALE is fixed for September 25th. The Secretary of the Willesden and Maida Vale Branch will be glad of anything. There is to be a stall for the sale of home-made jam and cakes. Will all members who will help please send parcels to Miss James, 9, Wrotesley Road, N.W.

#### The New Paper.

"The Vote—for Women's Freedom"; so run the title and sub-title of our new paper, the first number of which we hope will be ready the first week in October. Meanwhile, next week we bid farewell to the *Franchise*, and the intervening gap will be bridged by the publishing of a halfpenny news-sheet of the size of the existing Freedom League pages of the *Franchise*.

#### Cash Received August 15th to August 28th.

Amount previously acknowledged	£ s. d.	Brought forward	£ s. d.
Anderson, Miss M. ...	3,214 17 9	Ledger, Mrs. A. K. (L.D.F.) ...	3,296 7 8
Anonymous ...	0 5 0	Lilley, Miss ...	0 5 0
Anonymous ...	0 3 0	Mack-Wall, Miss ...	1 1 0
Anonymous ...	0 2 6	Mills, Mrs. E. (balance) ...	0 1 6
Anonymous ...	10 0 0	Morant, Miss M. ...	0 1 0
Baker, Miss M. ...	0 5 0	McCall, Dr. Annie (L.D.F.) ...	2 0 0
Bastian, Mrs. C. (L.D.F.) ...	1 0 0	O'Brien, Hon. Georgina ...	0 10 0
Behenna, Miss K. A. ...	0 1 0	Polak, Miss S. ...	0 1 0
Bennett, Miss S. (L.D.F.) ...	3 0 0	Powell, Mrs. ...	0 5 6
Bunten, per Miss (L.D.F.) ...	0 5 0	Rathbone, Mrs. ...	1 11 6
Cousins, Mrs. Wall (L.D.F.) ...	1 11 0	Schmidt, Miss ...	0 2 0
Cross-Buchanan, Miss I. ...	0 5 0	Schofield, Miss A. ...	1 0 0
Erskine, Miss A. M. ...	0 2 6	Sharman-Crawford, Mrs. (L.D.F.) ...	5 0 0
Fox Bourne, Mrs. (L.D.F.) ...	5 0 0	Sidley, Miss M. ...	0 12 0
Fox Bourne, Miss (L.D.F.) ...	1 0 0	St. Aubyn, Mrs. ...	0 5 0
Goodyer, Miss F. O. ...	0 5 0	Taylor-Brown, Mrs. ...	0 1 0
Harberton, Lady (L.D.F.) ...	10 0 0	Trescher, Lady Leila ...	1 0 0
Hardy, Miss ...	0 2 6	Tudor, Mrs. R. (L.D.F.) ...	5 5 0
Hare, Miss M. ...	0 1 0	Warter, Miss M. A. ...	0 1 0
Herron, Mrs. M. M. (L.D.F.) ...	10 0 0	White, Mrs. E. ...	0 15 0
Hicks, Mrs. L. M. (L.D.F.) ...	20 0 0	White, Miss E. M. ...	0 1 0
Hood, Mrs. ...	0 1 0	Williams, Miss H. (L.D.F.) ...	1 0 0
"Hour and Woman" (on account of sales) ...	14 0 5	Collections and Tickets ...	20 4 6
How, Mrs. ...	4 0 0	Sundry Sales ...	14 12 6
Carried forward	£2,296 7 8		£3,352 8 2

#### Legal Defence Fund.

THE Hon. Treasurer writes to call the attention of all militant and non-militant friends to the fund which has been opened to enable the League to fight the present constitutional case in the most effective manner possible. To this end the services of eminent counsel have been engaged, and the utmost financial help which can be given is asked to meet the heavy extra expense which fees and costs will run into. The above marked list shows how generously the call has already been answered; but every one must do his or her share in this matter, and I appeal confidently to every sympathizer to send a "Legal Defence" donation, even if only 1s. can be spared. I print below some extracts from letters received, which will show the enthusiasm aroused all over the country by the present position.

ALISON NEILANS (Financial Organizer).

Liskeard, Cornwall.

"I gladly enclose £10 for the Legal Defence Fund of those who have so nobly suffered for us by going to prison—I only wish it were more...with unbounded sympathy and earnest hopes for your success."

Upminster, Essex.

"You have my heartiest wishes for your success in the Legal Defence...It brings the facts and truths before the eyes of the people as few other things can. Enclosed is small cheque for £1—wish it were £100."

Kensington, W.

"Whilst my views may differ in some degree from those of the Freedom League, I am entirely at one with them in a condemnation of Mr. Asquith's conduct, and I send you a donation of £5. Your members have evidenced a devotion and self-sacrifice deserving of the highest praise."

Great Malvern.

"I saw all about the iniquitous action taken...It makes one furious...I enclose a cheque for £10 towards the legal expenses."

Caterham, Surrey.

"Hoping for all success. Cheque £5 from myself and £1 from my daughter."

Hadleigh, Suffolk.

"Gratefully I am sending £1, and only wish I could send more."

Upper Norwood, S.E.

"I need hardly say that I fully share the amazement which must, I think, be common to all British subjects as regards the extraordinary Constitutional position created by the Prime Minister's refusal to receive your accredited representatives—a refusal rendered the more incomprehensible by the fact that this deputation was headed by your President, Mrs. Despard, whose

record of work in the cause of humanity is world known, and by another leader, Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, to whose great inherited traditions England so largely owes her industrial freedom and prosperity."

#### Branch Notes.

GLASGOW.—The weekly "At Homes" which were so successful last winter, are to be resumed on Wednesday, September 8th, in the Albany Galleries, Charing Cross—Hostess, Miss Morrison. With speeches, tea, and music, a very pleasant afternoon is spent from 3 to 6 o'clock, and all friends are cordially invited to be present. The evening "At Homes," on the first Saturday of each month from 7 to 10 p.m., will also be resumed on Saturday, September 4th, in the Albany Galleries, when the Hillhead Branch are the hostesses of the evening, and the speakers will be Miss Marguerite Sidley and Miss E. Semple.

IPSWICH BRANCH.—A good start has been made in Felixstowe this week. To our great delight Miss Bremner was able to come down from London on Saturday, and before her departure on Monday morning, addressed three good meetings near the sea. We have many friends in the town, but visitors and residents, so she received a hearty welcome. A branch will, we hope, soon be started in the town, but to do this easily we must have more help in speaking. Any speaker who will come, as Miss Bremner has done, for a few hours, will render invaluable help here just now. Please communicate with me at Bawdsey Beach, Woodbridge. E. KNIGHT.

#### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

September 2nd to September 29th.

Picketing at the House of Commons on Thursday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 2.30; Friday, 12 to 5 p.m. Volunteers are urgently needed, especially between 2.30 and 6.30 p.m., and after 10 p.m. Will the helper who has taken home one of the sashes kindly return it as soon as possible?		
Serpt.		P.M.
Thurs. 2. Llanwern Park (residence of Mrs. D. A. Thomas) 147, Buchanan Gardens, Willesden business meeting Highbury Corner, London, N.	Miss Muriel Matters	3
Fri. 3. Magistrate's Decision at Bow Street York Prince's Head Albany Galleries, Glasgow, "At Home" Corner of Beresford Road and High Street, East Finchley	Miss Schofield Mrs. Duval and others Miss Marguerite Sidley Miss E. Semple Mrs. Beith, Miss Bremner	7 4
Sun. 5. Hyde Park	Chair, Miss Muriel Nelson, M.A. Miss Bremner Mrs. Duval & Mrs. Manson 3 Mrs. Duval & Mr. Shipham 6 Miss Broadhurst, M.A. 3 Miss Farquharson, M.A. Miss Broadhurst, M.A. 7.15 Miss Farquharson, M.A. Miss Broadhurst, M.A. Miss Farquharson, M.A. Hostess, Miss Morrison	noon 7.30 7 3 7 6
Mon. 6. Battersea Park Clapham Common Llandudno Bangor		
Wed. 8. Menai, Beaumaris	Albany Galleries, Glasgow, "At Home" South Norwood Clock	Mr. Gugenheim and Mrs. Duval 7.30 Miss Broadhurst, M.A. 7 Miss Farquharson, M.A. Miss Underwood and others Miss Broadhurst, M.A. 7 Miss Farquharson, M.A. Mrs. Beith Mrs. Manson Miss Irene Miller
Fri. 10. Port Dinoravia, Carnarvon	Prince's Head, Battersea	6 6
Sat. 11. Bethesda	Corner of Beresford Road and High Street, East Finchley Corner of Beresford Road and High Street, East Finchley	6 6
Sun. 12. Hyde Park	Brockwell Park	Mrs. Bortman Wells noon Miss Neilans 3 Miss Broadhurst, M.A. 7 Miss Farquharson, M.A. Miss Fenings and a member of the Men's League 7.30
Mon. 13. Holyhead		
Wed. 15. Aberdeen Road		
Sat. 18. Corner of Beresford Road and High Street, East Finchley Trafalgar Square (the Men's League)	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Manson Miss Law and Mr. Overy 7.30 Miss Benett Miss Nelson, M.A. 7.30 Mr. Yaldwyn	3 3 7.30 7.30
Wed. 22. Thornton Heath Clock		
Sun. 26. Brookwell Park		
Wed. 29. South Norwood Clock		



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

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.  
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

OFFICE: 40, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.

Hon. Literature Secretary: A. I. G. JAYNE.

### Notes and Comments.

With the beginning of September we practically enter on another year's work. The first persons to rejoice will be the organizers of open-air meetings, who will once more find speakers at their disposal. We take this opportunity of asking all speakers to communicate with Mr. T. Gugenheim, at the League Office. The League must resume its work in Brockwell and Finsbury Parks without delay.

Moreover, we must rapidly complete the preparations for our demonstration in Trafalgar Square on September 18th. We shall have a number of men speakers, for the demonstration is distinctively one held by the League, but we shall have the valuable support of Mrs. Despard, Miss Cicely Corbett, and others. We need volunteers to distribute handbills, and give various kinds of assistance. At all events there must be a good muster of Leaguers wearing their buttons to permeate the crowd and proselytize.

In general we hope to have a great re-awakening of practical enthusiasm. There are many members eager to do service, whose modesty leads them to confine their activities to attending Suffrage meetings as stewards or even as members of the audience. Now such aid is very valuable in its way, but there are doubtless many who, if they would only try, would be able to do yeoman service of a more positive character. To attend Suffrage meetings and hear the splendid fighting speeches which women are delivering is doubtless an intellectual treat; but after all the convert must in his turn become a missionary, and go out pioneering among the scoffers and pagans. We do not for a moment depreciate the services which men do by attending Suffrage meetings, especially where there is work of various kinds to be done. But we imagine that attendance on ordinary political meetings and forcing Women's Suffrage to the front is of greater practical importance at the moment.

Again we must distribute everywhere the new leaflets mentioned below, which have been issued by the literature sub-committee. The Honorary Secretary will be glad to send packets on application to those who are willing to help in this work. Almost every member of the League can do something in this direction to prove the sincerity of his convictions.

### Two New Leaflets.

THE attention of members and friends is called to our two new leaflets. Price 2s. 6d. per 1,000 copies. They are specially directed to men, pointing out why they should help women to get the vote. The reasons are stated shortly and impressively, and each leaflet gives, besides our own, the names and addresses of the three chief Suffrage Societies: the National Union, the National Women's Social and Political Union, and the Women's Freedom League. Members are asked to distribute them, both at our meetings and privately, as occasion serves.

### A Swedish Men's League.

DURING a short visit to Sweden, I had the pleasure of meeting, at the house of Miss Signe Bergman, a number of the leading Stockholm Suffragists. Among them was Mr. G. Halfred von Koch, the editor of *The Sociological Review* and *The National Charity Review*. Mr. von Koch, who has spent much time studying economic and social problems in England and America, has been profoundly impressed by the urgent necessity of women's enfranchisement, and is now about to found a Men's League in Sweden. He expects to have from the beginning the support of a number of prominent men. We had an interesting conversation, both as regards the general outlook and in reference to machinery and policy.

The position of the cause in Sweden is fresh in the minds of our readers. Women's Suffrage is part of the official programme of the Liberal party and of the Labour party. In so far the issue is much simpler than ours. Moreover, a Bill has actually been passed by the Lower House, but was thrown out by the Upper House. On the other hand, the Swedish Suffragists are faced by the same dilemma as regards the scope of the reform which operates so disastrously against us in the British Isles. There is a growing hostility against non-party Suffragists (i.e. those who argue for the reform "on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men") on the part of the Socialists and the Adult Suffragists generally, and it is not improbable that this difficulty will be accentuated by the prolonged general strike. In spite of the extraordinary absence of disorder which has marked the strike, there has gradually arisen a feeling of alarm in the minds of moderate persons. The natural result of this must be that many of these cautious persons will become chary of all reform for a while; they will argue for a period of rest and recuperation. Then the split between the Adult Suffragists and the non-party Suffragists will be accentuated.

Moreover, a further problem (which the non-party Suffragists clearly recognize) has been thrown into relief by the presence of large numbers of working women in the ranks of the strikers. One of the most impressive features of a huge strike procession of 20,000 workers in Gothenburg on August 9th was the women's section. The need which these women have for direct political representation cannot escape the attention of the most superficial observer. In so far, therefore, as any limited Bill would exclude these women, the non-party Suffragists must look upon it with some regret, though the logic of the position will compel them to support it.

As against these inevitable problems the organization is in good working order, practically every town and village having its branch society; speakers are well received, and active opposition to the principle is practically dead. Mr. von Koch has definitely decided to adopt the non-party basis on which the English League is founded, and has refused to make his society a league of Liberals, in spite of some pressure that he should do so. J. M. M.

### Winter Meetings.

WILL members kindly inform the Honorary Secretary at once if they are able to suggest good places for local meetings or debates during the winter. Every possible help will be given from headquarters; speakers will be sent, and printing will be done. What headquarters cannot do without permanent paid officials is to obtain first-hand knowledge of local conditions, halls, and the like, without the help of local members.

### "Woman's Freedom."

MAN bore his chains for centuries in peace,  
Till thought beamed in him, as in gloomy sky  
Pale light proclaims that perfect dawn is nigh.  
Then he arose and cried, "Let serfdom cease!"  
Now Woman feels her imminent release  
And looks on light with glory in her eye,  
Beholds her bonds no more with helpless sigh,  
But sees them weaken with the light's increase.  
O Man, whose manacles lie at thy feet,  
Shall she, who shared thy shame when thou wast slave,  
Partake not of thy higher, freer life?  
Then wear again thy chains! more just and sweet  
Than liberty, that serves but to deprave,  
And makes a man demand a thrall for wife.

CYRIL WALDWIN.

[Report of open-air meetings next week.—ED.]

For all Literature having Reference to the

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APPLY TO

THE WOMAN CITIZEN PUBLISHING SOCIETY,  
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