

# Men's League for Women's Suffrage

No. 45.

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Monthly Paper.

ONE PENNY.

President: THE RIGHT HON. THE  
EARL OF LYTTON.

Chairman: HERBERT JACOBS.

June, 1913

## NOTES OF THE MONTH.

By way of celebrating the successful issue of the Hyde Park struggle, and with a view to renewed activity, members of the League are asked to meet at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 10. The proceedings will fall into two parts, social intercourse and business. Members will be asked to give their views as to our work for the future, and to hear a few words from the committee as to our immediate work and prospects.

Mr. Peake, the Australian statesman, in the course of an interview with a *Westminster Gazette* representative, spoke very emphatically upon the women's suffrage question. "With us," he said, "Woman Suffrage has worked admirably. It has prevented men of undesirable character from becoming candidates at all. It has quickened the sense of Parliament with regard to industrial matters, to education, to temperance, and to humanitarian affairs generally. WE HAVE NEVER HAD THE SLIGHTEST REASON TO REGRET THE EXTENSION OF THE FRANCHISE TO WOMEN."

It is almost incredible that the present Liberal Party, whose official programme might be stated in the above words, has allowed some seven years to pass without any attempt to reinforce its ranks by the interest of British womanhood. We venture to think that, in the future, even party Liberals of the eighteen-hundred-and-fast-asleep type will bitterly regret that Mr. Asquith's iron hostility has deprived the country of women's suffrage.

We are rejoiced to see that the Countess of Selborne as a suffragist declined to take part in a demonstration against Welsh Disestablishment. Lady Selborne is a member of the great Cecil family, than whom no one is more sincerely enthusiastic for the Establishment. It is a sign of the times, therefore, that she should have put the suffrage first. Unionists have rather enjoyed the discomfort which our movement has inevitably caused to their political opponents. We venture to warn them that there are in their own camp many good suffragists whose support they will lose if they persist in using the Primrose League to hew their wood and draw their water without giving the franchise to women.

The staunchest supporters of constitutional propaganda will

join in a tribute of profound sympathy in her illness to Mrs. Pankhurst. However great may be the regret felt by many suffragists that she has continued to advocate a militant policy, the main feeling uppermost at the moment is one of mingled horror and despair that so brave a fight should involve so heavy a penalty. We urge Mr. McKenna and his colleagues to rise above any narrow conception of their responsibility. Militancy apart, the House of Commons has achieved precisely nothing by its futile and belated Cat and Mouse Act. Members must have learned their lesson; let them take immediate steps before it is too late. The Government promised a Bill "capable of amendment," &c., &c. It has not given us that Bill. The reason for its failure is beside the point. When an honourable man is in this position he makes amends. If Mr. Asquith can't honestly introduce a Government measure, let him save his honour by resigning. We do not envy his feelings and those of Mr. McKenna if Mrs. Pankhurst should die. They will say quite truly that she had her remedy. But even a casuist has moments when a "sort of a" conscience stirs.

Hyde Park is practically at peace again. The League's speakers have had, if we may quote from Lord Chatham, "perilous and tremendous moments," when it was not "a time for adulation (!) and the smoothness of flattery could not save us," &c. We have no desire to use hard words, either here or on the platform; there may have been organised roughness, or there may not. On the whole, we have not lost by the experience. This we do know, however. The Press has been, with certain exceptions, quite amusingly mendacious; now that we are in smooth waters again all reports have ceased! Prior to the first meeting which was successfully held, certain Press photographers persuaded the speakers to pose in a group. Those groups did not appear. Had the crowd put us in the Serpentine we would have had the honour of a front page, with sarcastic comments. A specialist in forgery, perjury, and criminal libel is a much etherealised George Washington compared with the average news departments of the sensational London Press.

The Lord Chancellor's special permit to Miss Enid C. Duncan, Chairman of the West Ham Board of Guardians, to act as a J.P. for the purpose of certifying lunatics, raises an interesting point. A lunatic cannot vote. Yet a woman, who as such is not fit to vote, is empowered by a henchman of Mr. Asquith to grant a certificate which will deprive a man from exercising his natural

function as a voter! If this goes on, a Cabinet Minister, under the terrible strain of Parliamentary labours, may collapse, and be put under restraint by order of a woman J.P. It is a terrible thought! Surely Mr. Harcourt or Mr. McKenna will raise the question before it is too late?

J. M. M.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

The Editor MEN'S LEAGUE Monthly Paper.

DEAR SIR,—

In response to the appeal in your May issue, I formed one of the audience at your Hyde Park meeting of Sunday, 25th. The reports I had seen of your previous Sundays—"van overturned," "van rushed, with speakers on board, down to the Serpentine," &c.—had inspired the belief that to be present wearing a "Votes for Women" badge would involve heroism, but a considerable disillusionment was in store for me.

The really heroic feature was the opening speech of Mr. Kennedy, who "occupied the chair," and made his earlier remarks literally to no audience at all, the crowds at that time finding a greater attraction in two women's meetings hard by. (Why three meetings at the same hour?)

But suddenly, and in the midst of a speech from the cart by Mr. Mitchell, a muffled roar was heard as of an advancing tribe of Apaches. The Women Teachers' meeting was at an end, and our audience of about a dozen found itself multiplied into several thousands, a section of whom were bent upon making the speakers inaudible. In vain did the chairman plead, or Mr. Laurence Housman appeal; in vain did Mr. Simpson meet the obstructionists with his genial humour, and I, unfortunately, lost many of the newest suffrage arguments which I had come up from the country expressly to hear.

As an outside observer it was pretty evident to me that the systematic interruption was subsidised. I was impressed, on the other hand, by the almost lavish police protection that the speakers enjoyed. One feature of the meeting was the presence of a little German gentleman who blossomed out at question time. How excited he was—how he fumed and windmilled—and how we all strained to catch his meaning! But, alas, we are now fated sadly to live out our span unenriched with the broken English of his observations!

Yours, &c.,  
A. P. BUSCH-MICHELL.

Crosswood, Welshpool,  
May 31, 1913.

**SOCIAL GATHERING**

Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street,

TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 8 p.m.

**TO CELEBRATE THE HYDE PARK TRIUMPH.**

REFRESHMENTS. BRING FRIENDS.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR MAY.**

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Rev. A. E. Girdlestone ..	0 2 6	W. C. Shurrock, Esq. ..	0 1 0
J. W. Jeurwine, Esq. ..	0 2 6	The Hon. P. Ritchie ..	0 2 6
P. J. Barley, Esq. ..	1 0 0	G. S. W. Epps, Esq. ..	0 10 0
A. W. Pollard, Esq. ..	0 10 6	R. F. Cholmeley, Esq. ..	0 10 0
J. W. Frankland, Esq. ..	1 0 0	O. Thornycroft, Esq. ..	0 2 6
L. W. Phillips, Esq. ..	0 1 0	E. Gold, Esq. ..	0 2 6
G. E. Mengens, Esq. ..	0 2 0	Archdeacon E. F. Miller ..	0 10 6
G. F. Sitzler, Esq. ..	0 2 6	L. Youngman, Esq. ..	0 3 0
M. Fordham, Esq. ..	0 2 6	A. J. C. Ewen, Esq. ..	0 2 6
O. C. Smith, Esq. ..	0 2 0	R. F. Taylor, Esq. ..	0 2 6
F. S. Barnes, Esq. (qurtrly)	0 3 0	E. H. Elsworth, Esq. ..	1 0 0
R. G. Snow, Esq. ..	1 1 0	P. F. Playfoot ..	0 4 0
J. C. Snow, Esq. ..	1 1 0	Eric O'Mahoney, Esq. ..	0 1 0
A. Snow, Esq. ..	0 10 0	G. C. S. Tennant, Esq. ..	0 2 6
W. R. Snow, Esq. ..	2 2 0	Sir J. Forbes-Robertson ..	1 0 0
Rev. J. S. Cohen ..	0 1 0	William Macdonald, Esq. ..	0 2 6
R. L. Atkins, Esq. ..	0 2 6	W. T. Whittaker, Esq. ..	0 2 6
J. E. Gouk, Esq. ..	0 4 0	The Hon. P. Ritchie ..	(monthly) .. 0 1 6
E. G. Smith, Esq. ..	0 5 0	Total .. ..	13 18 0
J. Scurr, Esq. ..	0 1 0		
P. Haddan, Esq. ..	0 2 0		

DONATIONS.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Miss M. G. Clayton ..	0 5 0	William de Morgan, Esq. ..	2 2 0
H. Jacobs, Esq. ..	1 0 0	Miss Wright ..	2 0 0
G. E. Mengens, Esq. ..	0 13 0	Julius West, Esq. ..	0 5 0
C. M. Scrimjeour, Esq. ..	0 5 0	E. Whitley, Esq. ..	1 1 0
R. L. Atkins, Esq. ..	0 2 6	Herbert Jacobs, Esq. ..	1 0 0
R. H. Pott, Esq. ..	0 10 6	Total .. ..	12 7 0
H. Brown, Esq. ..	3 3 0		

**BRANCHES.**

MANCHESTER MEN'S LEAGUE.

A PROMISING OUTLOOK.

The sixth year of the Manchester Men's League, which is now well "under way," promises to be one of increased activity and usefulness. At the annual meeting the following officers were elected:—President, A. M. Langdon, K.C.; vice-presidents, Professors S. J. Chapman, C. H. Herford, Ernest Rutherford, T. F. Tout, and F. E. Weiss, Dr. H. Thiselton Mark, Dr. Vipont Brown, the Rev. Frederick Cooper, and the Rev. Llewellyn Herford; hon. treasurer, Edward Barlow; hon. secretaries, J. Beanland and W. Bently Capper, junr. Mr. Beanland succeeds Mr. Sam Brooks, who, after serving as joint secretary from the inauguration of the branch, was compelled reluctantly to relinquish that office at the annual meeting owing to an appointment away from Manchester. We were all sincerely sorry to lose him, although our regret was mitigated somewhat by his consenting to remain on the Executive Committee.

At the annual meeting a vigorous plan of campaign was outlined. Our membership is increasing very satisfactorily, and we now number a good many prominent local men in our ranks. Our finances continue to show a balance on the right side. On May 8 we held a successful open-air meeting at Hale, in the Altrincham Division, our speakers being Councillor J. Macnamara, of Hale, in the chair, Miss Margaret Hewitt (W.S.P.U.), Mr. Beanland and Mr. Capper. During the closing stages of the Altrincham by-election we have placarded the most populous parts of the Division with a poster, "Appeal to Men," in the League's colours. We have also supplied one or two speakers to the National Union for their election meetings. Our chairman,

Mr. D. M. Humphreys, although a lifelong Liberal, withheld his vote from the Government candidate, owing to the Government's treatment of the Suffrage question.

A resolution was adopted by the Executive, protesting against the banning of the W.S.P.U. open-air meetings in the metropolitan area. Later this was followed by a resolution and a signed protest (which appears in another part of this issue) against the interference with the Sunday meetings of the Men's League in Hyde Park. All our doings have been receiving gratifying publicity in the Manchester Press.

J. BEANLAND,  
W. BENTLY CAPPER, JUN.  
(Hon. Secretaries).

**HYDE PARK AND ELSEWHERE.**

SOCIAL GATHERING.

It is a little difficult for us to adequately express our thanks to those members who have stood by us so splendidly during the troublous times we have recently experienced in Hyde Park. It has been a difficult enough task for the speakers, and one and all wish to say how much this task has been lightened by the knowledge that there were members of the League in the crowd who cared enough about Suffrage to leave their homes and face the discomfort of being jostled and harried by the roughs who have of late turned Hyde Park into a very close imitation of a bear garden. In the midst of the surging sea of faces, many of them unfriendly, that surrounded our lorry, it was pleasant to see here and there a face that one knew for a friend, and it revived the old spirit of comradeship that was such a feature of our early by-election fights. It is this spirit that has made the League what it is, a body of determined, and withal, genial, fellows, who will work hand in hand, and if the recent lull in Suffrage activities has limited the opportunities for the expression of this feeling, it is none the less there, ready to spring to life at the call to arms. Good as the recent response has been, the officers feel that there is room for still more co-operation between the executive and the members, and in order that you may have an opportunity of giving us your counsel as to our future activities, we have decided to hold a meeting of a mingled business and social character, at which we earnestly hope you will be present in order that we may have the chance of reviving old intimacies, and getting to know those members who have joined our ranks more recently.

The meeting has been arranged for 8 o'clock, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on June 10th. The evening will be devoted to consideration of business, and to social intercourse and music. Refreshments will be provided.

In the work of the League such as ours there can be no no standing still. We must go forward, and the solid spade work that Mr. Startup has been quietly doing has paved the way for a serious campaign to secure new members and to get more work out of the old ones. We quite realise the fact that many cannot do much in the way of financial help, and to them we look for personal service. It is good that you should be members of the League, but membership should mean more than a payment of an annual subscription and a tacit assent to the plans of your Executive Committee. This is a democratic society. You have a voice in its affairs. It is desirable that your voice should be raised more frequently. We want to feel that whatever we do has the support and sympathy of our members, and we should

like to assure you that we value the interest you have shown in our efforts to maintain the right of free speech.

At no time in the history of the League have we been more in the public eye, and it is important that this publicity should be used to increase the usefulness of the League.

We constantly receive requests for stewards whom we are not able to provide, and it would be useful to have a list of men who are prepared to do this simple duty in or around their own districts. We also need men who will make systematic efforts to get new members. Further, there is room for an organised body of men who will watch our interest in the local papers. All these things are worth doing, and can be done, but they must be done systematically. If you will come to the meeting you will have an opportunity of joining in the discussion, and, given the same support that has been accorded to similar meetings in the past, there is little doubt that this will prove of the utmost value in bringing to light fresh sources of effective help.

J. S.

**ODDS AND ENDS.**

BY THE DEALER.

From the memoirs of the late Lady Dorothy Nevill it appears doubtful whether Lord Beaconsfield had ever any real fondness for the primrose, now so long used, on that assumption, as an emblem of Conservative principles. That's as may be; but to Suffragists it is obvious that Mr. Asquith never had any real fondness for the very principles of Liberalism. What pass for Liberal principles to-day might have as an emblem the violet—the kind of violet which, if born at all, remains unseen and leaves others to do the blushing. Since the last Private-Member's-Bill farce the badge might be a "Palmer" violet with a sham diamond in the centre, such as is offered by cheapjacks to simple-minded folk.

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A sprig of nobility in a West-End drawing-room: "Votes for Women, indeed! Not much! That means trying to improve the human race and all that sort of rot." Ah, ha! He has an inkling.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Miss Constance Smith has recently retired from the managership of a Government department in which 1,400 women clerks deal with particulars relating to depositors of £160,000,000. Such statements are presumably never read by the funny old fossils, not so very old, some of them, who still get up at our Water Boards and other committees and raise the most absurd objections when woman clerk labour is proposed for the first time.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The *Daily Herald* asks, "Who the devil is Bodkin?" Well! who is he? He is not, as some might suppose, the King of England repudiating the Magna Charta. He is the hollow turnip on the broomstick, the bogey in the bedsheet, held up by a Liberal Government to show how little it will take to frighten Englishmen in the year nineteen hundred and thirteen.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The plucky little *Herald* is but a small sheet for a halfpenny, yet its keen admirers are saying that, if necessary, they will pay one penny for postage stamp size.

In that form, perhaps, they think it would stick even tighter to the truth.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The propagandist's idea of truth is apt to be that the *Daily*

*Strainhard* disgraces itself by saying of a doubtful egg or two that the number thrown at him will affect our import returns, but that the halfpenny *Harbinger* acquires merit by stating of the same occasion that the meeting concluded with the presentation of a bouquet to the speaker.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. McKenna at Cardiff argues that the franchise agitation of eighty years ago is no precedent for militant methods to-day. Eighty years is not a very long time in the history of man, and I should be very sorry to learn that Mr. McKenna's great-grandfather exhibited greater blindness or cruelty in any walk of life than that for which he has been responsible at the Home Office.

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Mr. W. J. Bryan, the new Foreign Secretary for the United States, is expressing hopes that we have seen the last great war. We might translate such hopes into actuality if we made our women full citizens.

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Mr. Asquith tells us that women do not want the vote because they have no grievances unremedied at the hands of men. The last Scottish prison report suggests that the scandalous number of criminals who brutally ill-use their wives is due to the lenient sentences given in our man-made Law Courts for such offences. The report of a Rescue Home for 1912 states that the vast bulk of its children have been foully ruined by their own near relatives.

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#### LOGIC.

Is it true that a great man deserted the women over the Dickinson Bill because a woman had thrown a pot of chrysanthemums at him? If so, the next time an Irishman throws anything at me I must let my views on Home Rule for Ireland depend on whether I can find out if it is an Ulsterman or a Nationalist who threw it.

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#### MORE LOGIC.

Mr. Walter Long has been saying that, however much he might believe in votes for women, he would deny them the franchise because of the behaviour of the militants. This is as though a man believed it good for the health of his family that they should go to live in the country, but vowed to keep them all permanently in town because one rebellious member had smashed up the gramophone on which he gave them an overdose of "Home, Sweet Home."

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A picture in the Academy has been reproduced, and is being sold to those who like that sort of thing, entitled "The Fallen Idol." It should make a good Anti-Suffrage poster. It purports to represent an erring wife, weeping at her husband's knee. Without in any way altering the picture, I should prefer it if the title were "Hypocrisy Enthroned."

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#### THE EMPIRE AND THE PEACE CENTENARY.

Lord Milner has been saying that the vast fabric of Empire can only be sustained by the whole people. Please, are women people? On the other hand, our centenarians are proposing to set up a statue to Queen Victoria in Washington. Well! What are you laughing at?

### "TRADE UNIONS."\*

Here we have another of this splendid series of little books so invaluable to busy people. All our readers have a double interest in this one, as in its counterpart recently issued under the same auspices entitled "Co-operation," because not only is it written by a man who has done much for suffrage in general and our league in particular, but there is much in it of interest, of warning and encouragement to suffrage workers. The book opens with a fine tribute to the spirit of fellowship, as opposed to mere cash considerations that persists in the leaders, at least, of the trade unions. Those of us who are sick of the working-class heckler's taunt that we are middle-class people—true though it may be—will be glad to be able to throw at the objector's head that it was "a small band of middle-class men, of whom the chief were Mr. Frederic Harrison, Professor E. S. Beesly, Henry Compton, and Thomas Hughes, who stood by the trade unionists" in early days, just as it was middle-class people who inspired the co-operative movement as we know it now.

It is interesting to come across the mention of "rattening." This name was given to outrages committed by unionist workmen of Sheffield in days gone by against non-unionists, one form of which consisted in depriving fellow workmen of their tools in order that they might not be able to obtain work. Surely, an excellent analogy to the case of men keeping women who have to compete with them for a living without that excellent tool, the Parliamentary Vote! Again, when we hear croakings as to the impossibility of the effective federation of women's suffrage societies, we may take heart in reading that Thomas Ashton, one of the chief leaders of the cotton operatives, declared once that it was all nonsense to pass a resolution in favour of federation, and that it was impossible for the trades of the country to amalgamate because of the jealousy (and other causes of friction with which suffrage workers have not to contend) rampant among them. Yet federation grows apace, as witness the latest effort among railway men, too recent even to be alluded to in this "People's Book." It is one of the main conclusions of Mr. Clayton that trade unions, despite doubts and differences of opinion at times, have been with increasing intensity pinning their faith on the value of political action. They have discovered as far as Parliament is concerned that in the words of one of their leaders: "No other class can speak with authority on the labour questions; and, *pace* Mr. Asquith and his egregious assumption that the interest of women are safe in the hands of men, it is, of course, doubly true that no man or body of men can speak with proper authority on women's questions."

The author points out that it was that faithful friend of suffrage, Mr. J. Keir Hardie, who was more than any other trade unionist the real creator of a separate Labour Party. Is it too much to hope that after the next election we shall find the Labour Party strong enough, and the balance of power between the historic parties narrow enough, to encourage the Labour men to show an independence which some of their friends have thought sadly lacking recently?

Doubtless, the chapter on women's trade unions is quite as long as their relative number and strength warrant. It would be foolish to criticise the author for a disappointment which is due to paucity of material; that condition of affairs merely emphasises the women's need of the Parliamentary vote. When that is granted, women's trade unions will grow rapidly.

\* "Trade Unions." By J. Clayton. Price 6d. T. C. and E. C. Jack, 67, Long Acre, W.C.