

Queen's Hall Meeting July 7, 1909.
For Prof. And. W. S. *July*

Durrant's Press Cuttings,

St. ANDREW'S HOUSE,

32 TO 34, HOLBORN VIADUCT, *ALY 2758*

AND

3, ST. ANDREW STREET, HOLBORN CIRCUS,
E.C.

The Daily News,

19, 20, & 21, Bouverie Street, E.C.

(T. P. Ritzema, Publisher.)

Cutting from issue dated *July 8* 1909

*See wording at
Resolution.*

TEACHING AND MARRIAGE.

LADY TO CONTEST LEGALITY OF HER DISMISSAL.

Mr. Snowden, M.P., presided over a crowded meeting held in Queen's Hall last night to promote the cause of women's suffrage. He said the meeting was intended to reveal to the Government that there was a widespread demand among women for their own enfranchisement. The raising of women to the status of citizenship would have a direct effect on the industrial and economic condition of working women. The chief obstacle to women's enfranchisement was the old desire for power on the part of men.

Miss Roper read a long letter from Mrs. Stansfield, the married woman teacher of Warrington who is about to contest in the Law Courts the legality of her dismissal from her headmistress-ship on the sole ground of her being a married woman. Mrs. Stansfield declared that no greater blow had been struck at the teaching profession than this attempt to oust married women from positions which they were so well able to fill.

Miss Roper, in proposing the following resolution, explained that the meeting was composed of representatives of 23 different branches of industry and professions:

"In view of the low wages of women and of the tendency of recent legislative and administrative action to interfere with and displace their labour, this meeting appeals to the Government immediately to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women as a necessary protection for the workers engaged in industry, commerce, and professions."

Among the speakers were Miss Murdy, who represented the Civil servants, and Miss Horniman, of the first Repertory Theatre. The resolution was carried with great enthusiasm.

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8, ST. ANDREW STREET, HOLBORN CIRCUS,
E.C

The Daily Telegraph,

141 Fleet Street, London, E.C.

(Francis Caine, Publisher)

Cutting from issue dated 8 July 1909

See wording of Resolution.

Queen's Hall was filled to its utmost capacity last night by professional and industrial women who are demanding the suffrage. This, the second meeting of its kind, was called by Miss Constance Gore-Booth and Miss Roper, and was identified in no way with any suffrage society, militant or constitutional. Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., was in the chair, and the speakers, who were all constitutional suffragists, were Mrs. Dickenson (Trades Unionist), Miss Murby (Post Office official), Miss Janet Case, M.A. (president University Women Teachers' Association), Miss Horniman (Repertoire Theatre), Miss Esther Roper, B.A., Miss Gore-Booth, Miss Reddish (Working Women's Panel for Trades), and Dr. Ethel Bentham, a medical woman and a candidate for the L.C.C. The chief questions of the night were the rights of married women teachers and those of women florists. Miss Roper, B.A., opened her address by reading a letter from Mrs. Stansfield, of Warrington, the married woman teacher who is bringing an action in Chancery in consequence of her dismissal from a post held for twenty years, the alleged reason given being that she is married. She wrote: "I am a certificated teacher of twenty-seven years' standing, and won in open competition the position which I have held for twenty years. Now I am told to go back to the kitchen." Miss Roper then proceeded to support the only resolution before the meeting, "That in view of the low wages of women and of the tendency of recent legislative and administrative action to interfere with and displace their labours, the meeting appeals to the Government to extend the franchise to women as a protection for workers engaged in industry, commerce, and professions."

Mr. Edward Crowne has this week completed forty years of service as clerk to the Tottenham District Council. He has received a vote of congratulation from the local authority,

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2758

THE WORKERS AND THE VOTE.

(To the Editor of "The Daily News.")

Sir,—As I have received numerous requests from members of the audience for an explanation of my attitude at the Professional and Industrial Women's Suffrage Meeting held at the Queen's Hall last night, I ask the courtesy of your columns to explain.

I made my protest, in the name of the 170,000 women trade unionists whom I represent, against the association of so great a cause as the civic freedom of women with the present mischievous propaganda against the principle of that existing factory legislation, to secure which the Women's Trade Union League has toiled for more than a generation, and with which the names of such women as the late Lady Dilke, Mrs. Sidney Webb, Mrs. H. J. Tennant, and Miss Gertrude Tuckwell are so honourably associated.

It seems to me that just as there can be no greater argument for women's suffrage than the life work of a woman like Mrs. Sidney Webb, so there is nothing more calculated to delay its achievement than the propaganda of that small body, of which Miss Eva Gore-Booth and Miss Esther Roper are the chief exponents.

No greater crime could be committed in the name of liberty than to deprive the helpless victim of the sweater of such protection as is already extended to her by the law.

The Women's Trade Union League stands for the extension and development of such protection, and not for its abolition.

We shall use our votes when we get them, to lessen, and not to increase, the hours of labour.—Yours, etc.,

MARY R. MACARTHUR,
Secretary of the Women's Trade Union
League, and President National
Federation of Women Workers.

[In our interview with Miss Macarthur the sentence "I object to the association of the Suffragist movement with the cause of women's labour," should have read: "I object to the association of the Suffragist movement with the propaganda against the protection of women's labour."—Ed.]

Sir,—Will you allow us to explain the reason why the question of florists' assistants' appeal for exemption from certain conditions of the Factory Act was not discussed at the meeting of professional and industrial women in support of Women's Suffrage in the Queen's Hall was because the matter is at present under the consideration of a judge appointed by the Home Secretary to conduct an inquiry on the subject, and we were advised that this being the case it was not correct for us to enter into it. If further action on our part should be necessary, we venture to assure Miss Macarthur that she will not find us wanting. We regret the absence of Mr. Campbell from our meeting, but Mr. Philip Snowden's vast industrial experience and broad grasp of the subjects under discussion, and able conduct of the meeting, were a cause of sincere gratitude to the 2,000 working women present, who were willing with startling unanimity to identify women's right to vote with women's right to work.—Yours, etc.,

EVA GORE BOOTH, }
ESTHER ROPER, } Hon. Secs.

6, Duke-street, Adelphi.
