

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

MONTHLY PAPER.

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No. 5.

FEBRUARY, 1910.

Price to Non-Members, **1d.** monthly (including postage).

! SPECIAL AND URGENT !

REMEMBER

**QUEEN'S HALL MEETING,
FEBRUARY 22nd.**

QUEEN'S HALL DEMONSTRATION.

EVERY MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE MAY HELP!

Now that a new Parliament is beginning, and the excitement of the election is over, our great task is to make our annual Queen's Hall meeting a triumphant success. We want to send to the new Government a genuine mandate from a crowded and enthusiastic meeting for the immediate removal of women's electoral disabilities.

THE SPEAKERS.

Among the speakers will be the Earl of Lytton, Mr. George Elliott, K.C., the great criminal lawyer, Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P., one of our honorary treasurers, Mr. Laurence Housman and Mr. A. M. L. Langdon, K.C., Recorder of Burnley, members of the Committee, and Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P. The chair will be taken, as usual, by our founder, Mr. Herbert Jacobs.

EVERY MEMBER CAN HELP.—In the first place we want workers—men who will make a real effort to sell tickets and distribute handbills. We shall need

100 STEWARDS

to make the meeting go smoothly. Our London members are specially asked to put up bills in their windows, or get them displayed in shop windows and at stations.

PROMISES OF HELP

in any of these ways are urgently asked for, so that the Executive may save money in public advertising. Every offer of help made at once will save expense.

Remember that practically every elector in the country has been approached by Suffragists during the election. Therefore every one is interested in the subject. We ought to get the Queen's Hall full to overflowing on February 22nd.

DONATIONS.

Those who cannot give personal service are invited to contribute towards the cost. Donations or guarantees will be gratefully acknowledged by the Honorary Treasurers, Messrs. Goldfinch Bate and H. G. Chancellor, M.P.

PRICES OF TICKETS.

Tickets will be as usual:—

Sofa Stalls (Reserved and Numbered) ..	5s., 2s. 6d., 1s.
Grand Circle (Reserved and Numbered) ..	2s. 6d., 1s.
Orchestra (Reserved and Numbered) ..	1s.
Gallery	6d.
Area (back of Sofa Stalls)	6d.

These may be had either on direct payment to the office, or on sale or return. *Every ticket sold to, or by, a friend means net profit to the cause, as well as saving of labour.*

Please fill up and return the annexed slip (printed in red) at your earliest convenience. "He gives twice who gives quickly."

Tickets are also on sale at the International Women's Franchise Club, 66, Russell Square.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

It is too soon to prophesy; but, other things apart, it is clearly to our advantage that the parties are more evenly balanced. Mr. Asquith's direct negative in East Fife merely emphasizes how astonishingly illogical and illiberal can be a man who is ostensibly making a grand appeal to justice. Few things could be well imagined more astounding than that a Liberal Premier should claim that he is appealing to the people, when he deliberately excludes more than half!

Mr. Balfour is elusive. Careful inquiries have failed to discover any one who confidently asserts that he knows what Mr. Balfour thinks about our question. At all events, he has unfortunately not given a satisfactory answer.

Turning from the party leaders, we note with extreme satisfaction that several opponents will not help to legislate for women in the near future. Dr. John Massie is rejected by the electors of Cricklade; Dr. Heber Hart and Mr. Holford Knight failed in Windsor and East Berkshire respectively; Col. Pakenham lost in St. Pancras. On the other hand we have lost good friends in Mr. H. C. Brodie (Reigate), Mr. E. N. Bennett (Woodstock), Mr. C. H. Corbett (East Grinstead), Mr. Leif Jones (Appleby), Mr. C. A. V. Conbyear (Horncastle), Mr. George Elliott, K.C. (South Beds.), Mr. J. D. Rees just scraped in by the barest majority for the Montgomery Boroughs, once again to safeguard the interests of the Bengal tiger, and to deny justice to British women.

MR. H. G. CHANCELLOR.

But we have one great triumph in the success of our joint Honorary Treasurer, Mr. H. G. Chancellor, who in a triangular contest won Haggerston. Mr. Chancellor's election address contained the strongest statement we have seen on Women's Suffrage. He spoke at the first meeting the Men's League ever held (April, 1907), and has given his time and experience ungrudgingly to the work of the League. His house has been at the disposal of all the Suffrage societies, and on several occasions he has done yeoman service to the cause as a leading member of the London Liberal Federation.

Let us give him a warm welcome at the Queen's Hall on February 22nd.

Other members of the League who will sit in the new Parliament are our old friends Mr. W. H. Dickinson (who has twice brought in a Bill for Women's Suffrage), Mr. Philip Snowden, Mr. W. Roch, and Mr. Aneurin Williams.

Besides these we have friends in Sir George Kemp, R. Cameron, Sir W. H. Davies, C. Duncan, Hon. Geoffrey Howard, Rev. C. Silvester Horne, Dr. Leach, J. T. T. Lincoln, Sir Chas. McLaren, H. K. Newton, H. Elverston, H. S. Foster, J. Henniker Heaton, Sir James Rankin, Sir J. F. L. Rolleston, Arnold Rowntree (Adult Suffrage), E. Shortt, Sir A. Spicer, J. E. Sutton, H. Twist, J. Walton, and Sir James Yoxall.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

We give below a list of the names of those members of the new Parliament who answered all our three questions without reservation in the affirmative. A supplementary list is also given of those whose answers, though they did not satisfy the above strict criterion, were very slightly inferior. The majority of these make reservations as regards the scope of the proposed reform.

LIST I.

Bethell, Sir J. H. (Lib., Romford).
 Chancellor, H. G. (Lib., Haggerston).
 Dickinson, W. H. (Lib., N. St. Pancras).
 Duncan, C. (Lab., Barrow-in-Furness).
 Davies, Sir W. H. (Lib., S. Bristol).
 Edwards, E. (Lab., Hanley) (general terms).
 Elverston, Harold (Lib., Gateshead).
 Ferens, T. R. (Lib., East Hull).
 Foster, H. P. (U., Lowestoft).
 Howard, Geoffrey (Lib., Eskdale) (Adult Suffragist).
 Jowett, F. W. (Lab., Bradford).
 Kemp, Sir G. (Lib., N.W. Manchester) (reply slightly qualified).
 Lewisham, Lord (U., W. Bromwich).
 MacCallum, J. (Lib., Paisley).
 MacDonald, J. Ramsay (Lab., Leicester).
 Montagu, Hon. E. (Lib., Chesterton, Cambs.).
 Newton, J. K. (U., Harwich).
 Rankin, Sir J. (U., Leominster).
 Rawson, Col. R. H. (U., Reigate).
 Rolleston, Sir J. (U., Hertford).
 Rowntree, A. (Lib., York).
 Shackleton, D. J. (Lab., Clitheroe) (Adult Suffragist).
 Shortt, E. (Lib., Newcastle-on-Tyne).
 Snowden, Philip (Lab., Blackburn).
 Spicer, Sir A. (Lib., Central Hackney).
 Stanley, A. (Lab., N.W. Staffs).
 Sutton, J. E. (Lab., E. Manchester).
 Taylor, T. W. (Lab., Chester-le-Street).
 Twist, J. (Lab., Wigan).
 Walrond, The Hon. W. L. (U., Tiverton).
 Walton, J. (Lib., Barnsley).
 Whyte, A. J. (Lib., Perth City).
 Williams, E. Crawshaw (Lib., Leicester).
 Yoxall, Sir J. (Lib., W. Notts).

LIST II.

Adam, Major (U., Woolwich).
 Brigg, Sir J. (Lib., Keighley).
 Cave, K.C., Geo. (U., Kingston) (limited measure).
 Carlile, E. H. (U., St. Albans).
 Clynes, J. R. (Lab., N.E. Manchester).
 Collings, Jesse (U., Bordesley).
 Dalziel, D. (U., Brixton).
 Evans, L. Worthington (U., Colchester).
 Fell, Arthur (U., Yarmouth).
 Foster, Philip (U., Stratford-on-Avon).
 Foster, J. K. (U., Coventry).
 Furness, Sir C. (Lib., W. Hartlepool).
 Goulding, Edwd. (U., Worcester).
 Goldsmith, Frank (U., Stowmarket).
 Henniker-Heaton, J. (U., Canterbury).
 Hickman, Col. J. E. (U., S. Wolverhampton).
 Hall, E. Marshall (U., E. Toxteth).
 Kimber, Sir H. (U., Wandsworth).
 Law, Bonar (U., Dulwich).
 Leach, C. W. (Lib., Colne Valley).
 Locker Lampson, J. (U., Salisbury).
 Morrison, Capt. (U., E. Nottingham).
 Millar, J. D. (Lib., St. Andrews).
 Newman, E. P. (U., Enfield).
 Nuttall, Harry (Lib., Stretford).
 Nield, Herbert (U., Ealing) (very limited measure).
 Rendall, A. (Lib., Thornbury).
 Roberts, Samuel (U., Ecclesall).
 Thomas, A. E., (Lib., Halifax).
 Wilkie, Alex. (Lab., Dundee).

DEPUTATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

READERS will remember that last session Mr. Asquith refused, on the ground of pressure of Parliamentary duties, to receive the deputation which Mr. H. Y. Stanger, K.C., was to have introduced on our behalf.

On receiving the Premier's reply, we at once announced through the press that we should renew our application as soon as the new Premier officially accepted the seals of office. At a meeting of the Executive on January 26th, it was unanimously decided to proceed with the matter at the earliest possible moment. The men who previously promised to support the deputation have been consulted, and others are to be asked.

In the meantime, since Mr. Stanger has unfortunately not seen his way to contest his seat again, we are now approaching another member of the new Parliament, asking him to introduce the deputation.

Members of the League may rest assured that no delay will occur on our part, and we hope that by the date of the Queen's Hall meeting (Feb. 22nd) we shall have achieved our object.

At all events, the new Premier will have to find another reason for refusing to see a deputation of prominent citizens. He will have the opportunity of appointing any day during the session from the earliest moment of his holding office.

A further proposal is in hand to interview privately certain other distinguished members of the Government.

The Committee relies on the individual and enthusiastic support of all members of the League in this important task, on the urgency of which all are agreed. During the last two years we have gathered an immense amount of information regarding the movement among men, which unquestionably deserves to be in the hands of the responsible Ministers of the Crown. Mr. Asquith has publicly asked for this information, and he can scarcely any longer refuse to receive it.

WOMEN'S PLACE THE HOME.

MR. ARNOLD WARD, who won Watford, is the son of Mrs. Humphry Ward, the novelist,* who assisted him in his campaign.—*The Star*, Jan. 28th.

* N.B.—And leader of the Anti-Suffrage Party!—[Ed. M.L.W.S.]

ROSSENDALE.

WE regret to see that the efforts of Mr. A. K. Bulley and the Women's Textile Association did not avail in Rossendale. Whatever we think of policy in general, all agree in principle that an Anti-Suffragist minister is to be opposed. Men like Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Mr. Lewis Harcourt are a perpetual menace to us, because a Prime Minister can always say that a Woman's Suffrage measure would split his Cabinet—and his party supporters will rush to agree with him, not unnaturally.

Consequently, though we have no hostility to Conservative or Liberal as such, we suffragists must regret the successes of Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Harcourt.

Still, we have this fact to remember. The questions at issue at this General Election were such as to rouse an extraordinary degree of interest. Never have the polls been so high. Consequently the fact that more than 600 men voted on the Suffrage ticket is encouraging. Mr. Bulley was entirely unknown in the district, and had only three weeks in which to meet the electors. His chance of unseating Mr. Harcourt depended largely on the success of Mr. Keby Fletcher, the Unionist, who apparently failed to capture the Lancashire voter. Had he increased his poll at the expense of Mr. Harcourt the result might have been different. At an election where the party issues were not so engrossing, he would assuredly have made a far larger impression on the electorate. At all events we owe him our thanks for consenting so late in the day to fight an exceedingly difficult constituency.

THE LIBERAL LADIES OF EAST FIFE.

WE were interested to observe that Mr. Asquith, in addressing his constituents in East Fife after his election, specially thanked his women supporters for their vigorous help, and complimented them on the way in which they had aided in converting the electors.

In a previous speech to his constituents he stated that he would not introduce a Bill to enfranchise women.

It would ill become a society of men, working for Women's Suffrage, to criticize the action of women who take an interest in politics. Such cases as this, however, and the pronouncement of the Council of the Primrose League, that no member must work even against a Conservative opponent of Women's Suffrage, make it all the more obvious that we as a League must press the question home with redoubled energy. The revolt of the women politicians on both sides would surely convince either leader. Pressure from men is likewise of the first importance. And moreover men, as custodians of the Franchise, are solely responsible for the injustice which now prevails.

HELP FROM THE MEN'S LEAGUE IN CUMBERLAND.

WE have had a very successful Election Campaign in the Cockermouth and Whitehaven divisions, owing largely to the energetic work and eloquent speaking of Mr. Theodor Gugenheim, of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage. Mr. Gugenheim generously devoted ten days of his annual holiday to helping us. We held twenty-two meetings in the two constituencies in seven days, and he spoke at eighteen of them, sometimes single-handed. On one occasion he was helped by Mr. Frank Marshall, a Keswick member of the Men's League. Mr. Gugenheim also went over to Carlisle to help in our campaign there, and he organized the polling-day arrangements in Workington, our largest centre.

We had to work under difficult conditions. We were sadly understaffed, and a long way from our base, and there were no local Women's Suffrage Societies in either constituency. But thanks to the chivalrous help of the Men's League, and the good fortune of having Mrs. Fawcett herself for four of our meetings,

our "Common Cause" has advanced triumphantly, and we are able to send up a petition to Parliament signed by nearly half of the voters in the district we covered. In both constituencies all three candidates declared themselves in favour of Women's Suffrage, so that we confined ourselves to propaganda work.

CATHERINE E. MARSHALL,
 Hon. Organizing Sec.

EAST WORCESTERSHIRE ELECTION.

ALTHOUGH it was recognized by all parties that Mr. Austen Chamberlain would be returned by an increased majority, the Women's Freedom League have played no small part in preventing him from passing his opponent's figures by the predicted six thousand! Mr. Yaldwyn, and later on Messrs. Gugenheim and Kennedy, assisted in the work, and hostility eventually became friendly and occasionally enthusiastic interest. Much good propaganda has been carried on, and the women particularly have responded to the clarion call for freedom. Many supporters of the Anti-Suffragist would have voted against him, but for his advocacy of Tariff Reform; and it was everywhere recognized that our cause is founded on just and logical principles.

THE PREMIER'S ALBERT HALL MEETING.

IN answer to several enquiries we reprint from *The Times* of December 9th excerpts from letters which passed between the Honorary Secretary and the conveners of the great Albert Hall Meeting.

WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS AND THE MEETING.

MR. J. M. Mitchell, Hon. Secretary to the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, wrote to the Secretary of the London Liberal Federation, asking for six seats for the Albert Hall meeting for members of his committee, who wished to ask Mr. Asquith a reasonable question as to his intentions with regard to Woman Suffrage. Mr. Mitchell added: "We propose specially to select representatives who are also members of the Eighty Club or the National Liberal Club, and have, therefore, every reason to hope for the success of the meeting." Full notice of the question in writing will be sent in advance, and, on receiving an understanding that Mr. Asquith will answer the question, we undertake to notify all our London and metropolitan members and urge them to make no other attempt to ask questions. This League has taken no part in previous attempts to ask questions at meetings of Ministers, and under no circumstances will authorize its members to make disturbance."

MR. S. W. Pascall, Secretary of the Federation, wrote in reply, enclosing four tickets as a matter of courtesy, on the understanding that they were given to gentlemen who desired the success of the meeting. He added, however, that at such a meeting questions (which might be indefinitely multiplied) would not be allowed.

MR. Mitchell yesterday wrote a further letter, expressing regret that it would be out of order to question Mr. Asquith as to his intentions, but adding the hope that he would none the less make a statement on the point. In the circumstances the committee have declined to use the tickets. Mr. Mitchell added: "May I point out that in the present state of feeling a promise that a reasonable question might be put and would be answered would have been a guarantee against Suffragist interruption? My committee, having made this official request for an opportunity to put a question, will take no further steps in the matter."

CORRESPONDENCE.

SIR,—The following extracts from two letters lately received from Sir Francis Fletcher Vane of Hutton, Bart., who has kindly given me permission to make them public, will, I think, be of interest at the present juncture. He writes:—

"5th January, 1910.

"...I am sincerely in favour of it [Woman's Suffrage], because I believe women's influence will do much to purify and mollify politics, and am not as much opposed to the active policy as some because I know enough of history to make it clear to me that

no great cause is won without something being smashed, whether it be corrupt nobles, inconvenient Houses of Parliament, or plate glass windows. In fact, no cause is worth fighting for unless there are some enthusiasts self-sacrificing enough not only to become martyrs for it in the ordinary sense, but that more difficult kind of martyrdom which is represented by what their enemies would call making fools of themselves for it...."

"10th January, 1910.

"DEAR MR. CLAYTON,—If it will advance the cause which I believe to be the right one, please publish my words. I would like to add, however, that in England, at any rate, the influence of the mother is less felt in the upper and middle classes than anywhere in Europe—the so-called leading classes. The public schools the pseudo-public schools, the old grammar schools, by our arrant snobbism converted into bad copies of Eton, Harrow, Rugby, &c., do much to negative the influence of the mother. It is commonly said by the proud father and mother 'we are sending our son to school (at say ten years) to harden him, to make a man of him.' Now, with a varied and somewhat lengthy experience of the world, especially in administration, I am convinced that men, let alone boys, require softening, humanizing, rather than hardening. So it appears to me that what the parent says above is wrong fundamentally; and in this respect possessing a wide knowledge of the Continent, I am convinced the hardening theory is but little known there. The mother's influence is, in fact, a dominant one up to the boy's entrance into manhood, but no one yet has been bold enough to say that an Englishman is a braver fighter, or a harder worker, or a more finished gentleman, than a foreigner of similar rank—yet many who have known the foreigner well and intimately have found him a kindlier man than is the average Englishman. If no better reason existed, therefore, for 'votes for women,' I should be in favour of it because it may help to regain the mother's rights over the boys, and thereby make our politics, national and international, kindlier politics, and our world a pleasanter place...."

[Signed] "FRANCIS VANE, of Hutton."

Hoping that you may be able to find space for these extracts,
I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

EDWY G. CLAYTON.

Glengariff, Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey.
January 17th, 1910.

BRANCH NEWS.

MANCHESTER.

THE elections have overshadowed everything else this month, and apart from the individual work of members, I have no particular branch news to report. In accordance with a scheme which we drew up, members visited the election meetings in their divisions and put questions to the candidates on their attitudes towards Women's Suffrage, and on the support they were prepared to give to the cause in the event of their being returned. In most cases the answers received were satisfactory. Of the members returned for Manchester and Salford, Messrs. J. R. Clynes (Lab.), J. E. Sutton (Lab.), A. A. Haworth (L.), W. P. Byles (L.), G. W. Agnew (L.), and Sir George Kemp (L.) are supporters of Women's Suffrage; Mr. Hilaire Belloc (L.) is violently opposed to it, as he considers that the agitation is "grossly immoral"; Mr. Arthur Colefax (C.) thinks that "there is great need of evidence as to how far women wish for the vote." He is "interested in the question, but not prepared, at present, to give it a place in my election address—either for or against." Sir Charles Schwann's views on the subject we have not yet elucidated. During the campaign members of the Committee secured the distribution of two thousand Men's League election handbills. Some of our members rendered assistance to the different women's societies working for the cause in the constituencies.

Our next public meeting will take place on Thursday, February 17th, at eight o'clock, in the Portland Café, 114, Portland Street, Manchester. The speaker on that occasion will be the Rev. G. E. Manning. All members of the League living in the district are earnestly invited to attend and to bring their friends. We must have a big rally. Meetings are of no use unless there are people to meet. So far, the attendances have been disappointingly small. Let us this time have a gathering worthy of the League!

W. BENTLY CAPPER, Jun.

21, Oxford Road, Manchester.

LIVERPOOL.

SINCE our last report we have had two of our monthly "At Homes," which are now held on the second Monday in every month at the Engineers' Rooms, 48, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Before Christmas we held a public meeting in the Bootle Division to rouse interest in the question of Women's Suffrage, and the League was represented by our speakers and stewards in the other constituencies where similar meetings were organized by the Liverpool Society for Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Frank Levy organized heckling, and nearly every local candidate has been heckled on "Votes for Women." We organized an open-air campaign in the Walton Division, where Mr. F. E. Smith, a prominent opponent of Women's Suffrage, was the successful Conservative candidate. We also distributed literature outside Mr. Smith's mass meeting of electors in Sun Hall. The novelty of men working for the women's movement roused great interest. We have been very fortunate in securing Mr. E. Noel Frimston for the office of co-secretary. Mr. Frimston has been a splendid worker, and we hope with this additional help to very much forward the movement in Liverpool in the future.

The Rev. G. A. Parkinson spent two days in the Rossendale division in support of Mr. Bulley. A. R. ALLERTON.

BRISTOL.

THE members of this branch have been very active in preparing for the elections in Bristol and the adjacent constituencies. Candidates were continually reminded, and the electors were kept fully posted as to the importance and urgency of women's enfranchisement. Both of the principal women's organizations were assisted impartially, members assisting at meetings in Bristol, Bath, &c., and several of our members, including the President and Hon. Sec., turned out on polling day and assisted in getting signatures for the Voters' Petition. We are now arranging for a deputation from the branch to wait upon the successful candidates, and to induce them to assist in obtaining a good place in the ballot for a Women's Suffrage Bill, and it is hoped that all other branches will unite with us in pressing the members of the new Cabinet to immediately bring in a Bill for the enfranchisement of women, pointing out that, with parties so evenly balanced, by-elections are vitally important, and that it is not wise or politic that the important issues now before the country should be jeopardized by continued opposition to the women's just demands for Parliamentary representation. The women of the country are now smarting under a sense of injustice, being taxpayers without representation, and *people* to whom all political rights are denied. F. W. ROGERS, Hon. Sec.

2, Kensington Villas, Royal Park, Clifton.

BIRMINGHAM.

A member of our League heckled Mr. Winston Churchill on the subject of "Votes for Women" at a meeting held at the Friends' Hall, on the 10th of January; he was roughly handled by the stewards.

On the 12th of January some members went to Mr. Lloyd-George's meeting at Bilston. Mr. Lloyd-George was heckled, but the hecklers were allowed to remain. We canvassed the outlying districts, but left Birmingham alone, as it was obvious that all the Unionist candidates would get in, with a large majority. H. RYLAND.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.

Mr. Shercliffe of Southfield, Scalpcliffe Road, Burton-on-Trent, writes to say that the formation of a branch is well on its way. Readers will recall the fact that a highly auspicious meeting was held during the autumn (Nov. 17th), at which a large number of prominent local men expressed their desire to support the cause actively. The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor both spoke in favour of the movement.