

THE VOTE.  
October 5, 1912.  
ONE PENNY.

**IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT OF LAW-MAKERS. BY MRS. DESPARD**

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1912.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men ;  
to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between  
the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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THE SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS OF THE WORKING WOMAN.



## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### "Mustard—without Beef!"

Questions after suffrage addresses are often enlightening and entertaining. Last Sunday morning, after the usual gathering in Hyde Park, under the auspices of the Mid-London Branch of the Women's Freedom League, when our President was the principal speaker, a man in the crowd asked: "Why are the women against Lloyd George? Has he not expressed in public his pity for Suffragists?" The answer was: "Lloyd George? I remember a schoolboy adage: 'Pity without relief is like mustard without beef!' Lloyd George only gives the women mustard! Let me tell you what Lloyd George, as a gentleman, ought to have done at Llanystumdwy. He should have absolutely declined to speak to that brutal crowd until he had been assured that none but members of the police force should touch the women." "But," said another questioner, "the women were in revolt." "That reminds me," said the speaker again, "of an incident in my experience. A policeman, giving evidence against the Suffragists after one of the so-called raids two or three years ago, was asked by the magistrate, 'How did the women obstruct you in your duty?' The policeman replied, 'They used bad language.' 'What was the bad language?' demanded the magistrate. After a pause, during which the Court thought, no doubt, that the language was too vile for repetition, he answered, 'They said, 'Votes for Women!'' "The women in revolt" at Lloyd George's meeting," continued the speaker, "merely asked him whether he intended to help to get votes for women, and the result was that they narrowly escaped lynch law." This aspect of the case had not occurred to the questioners, but its logic went home. We are glad to see that the horror of Llanystumdwy has made a deep impression upon the public mind; it gives us some hope for the manhood of the nation. Throughout the length and breadth of the land journals of all shades of political and suffrage opinion—Antis, Pros, and Indifferents—have opened their columns to letters of protest and of denunciation. As to personal protests, we may quote the words of the Rev. J. G. Williams, Vicar of Ranmoor, Sheffield, who, speaking as a Welshman, declared that such disgraceful scenes would not be possible in China, and that he was absolutely ashamed of his own countrymen. Canon Lewis, rector of the village, who took part in the ceremony of the opening of the Institute, said that lads going about carrying women's hair and clothing as trophies were no more fit for the franchise than the scalp-hunters of North America. He added, "I would rather see hysterical women get the vote than those hysterical youths enfranchised." Yet the aim which Mr. Lloyd George and the Government have in view for hysterical youths of twenty-one is to thrust the vote upon them unasked; while women are to be satisfied with "mustard" and deadly danger. Does anyone wonder "Why the women are against Lloyd George?"

### The "Times" on High Stilts.

The *Times* has again been playing the part of omniscient and would-be omnipotent lecturer to women, and betrays the malign influence of its ally, Sir Ahmroth Wright. The "painful scenes" at Llanystumdwy are the text, and women are bidden to recognise their own inferiority to the lords of creation. "They do not seem to understand that they are not the only people who have objects in view. Not content with pushing their own views, they make it their business to interfere with everyone who is intent on promoting his own projects. Men are not similarly prone to make that mistake, and the fact is evidence of superior political capacity." It is a very engaging occupation for men to describe their own virtues and to convince themselves that women are woefully lacking in this respect, evidently because they monopolised the supply before the women had a chance. "The superior political capacity" of men for not interfering with the projects of others may

be a very comforting doctrine to the "leader" writer of the *Times*, but he must have turned a blind eye on Ulster, where "interference" is going on so persistently that Sir Edward Carson during the great demonstrations of the past few days boldly declared, "I do not care twopence whether it is treason or not." We do not discover that the *Times* advises Ulster, as it advises the Suffragists, "to take note of the indications that they have gone too far."

### The Heroic Male.

The picture the *Times* draws of men and women taking the consequences of their actions is instructive. The man is heroic; he faces the result of his wrongdoing; the woman thinks wrong-doing need have no consequences. True, we are informed that the man "may be very sorry he is caught and even be ready to do wrong again;" but "the woman is apt to think that the law should be set aside in her particular case." The wisdom that is behind the *Times* is positively amazing! We seem to remember that Suffragists have had a very clear idea of the consequences following on their actions, whether they were peaceful deputations to recalcitrant Cabinet Ministers, servants of the people, or even window-smashing; they did the deed; they took the consequences. The stone-throwers who broke the Women's Freedom League windows in Edinburgh recently made good their escape; and how many of the "bravoes" who distinguished themselves at Llanystumdwy in such a way as to call down on their heads the execration of a nation, have voluntarily or involuntarily taken the consequences of brutal assault before a magistrate. They do not seem to be much impressed by the glorying of the *Times* that the man "plays the game"; they had their brutal "suffrage hunt," but they have evidently argued "that the thing done need not have consequences for anybody"—as women do, if we believed the *Times*. We have not much regard for that heroism which only comes into play when a man is sorry to be found out in a wrong and is ready to sin again, and fail to see how it proves "a certain grip upon reality," which is the foundation of political capacity. The *Times* turns the blind eye to the earnest purpose underlying the action of Suffragists, and so long as the one-sided male point of view prevails, so long will women be in revolt and a great newspaper provide such nonsensical nostrums for its readers.

### Women in Local Government.

We congratulate our good friend, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, in her candidature for the coming Borough Council election. She stands because she is convinced that the women's point of view must be heard if the welfare of all is to be gained. We wish her a triumphant success, for she has already done valuable public work in Hammersmith, and is ready to do more, always with the idea of demonstrating that in the home, in the city, and in the State, men and women should take counsel together. Mrs. Sanderson is one of the Labour Party candidates, and it is significant that neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives have any women candidates in the Borough. Wisdom in this respect is found with Labour. Another good Suffragist who is actuated by the same motive—the need for woman's influence on the Councils—is Miss Mary Beeton, who is running as an Independent candidate for North Paddington Borough Council. She, too, has done admirable public service in Paddington for ten years and more, and her experience should make her a most able and valuable member of the Council. As she stands independent party—objecting to party interests dominating civic affairs—she has no great organisation behind her, and would welcome help from those who see the need of women members. The ward is very large, and we suggest that any friends who can canvass for Miss Beeton or help in any way should write to her at 9, Maresfield-gardens, Hampstead. We further suggest that Mrs. Humphry Ward and her associates should take the opportunity of putting their much-advertised principles into practice by rallying immediately to the support of Miss Beeton.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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## INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE FAIR, TOWN HALL, KING'S-ROAD, CHELSEA,

November 13, 14, 15, 16.

Organiser: Mrs. KATE HARVEY, Brackenhill, Highland-road, Bromley, Kent.

**Hospitality Bureau.**—Will members and friends from the provinces who require hospitality, and members and friends who are willing to offer it during the Fair week, kindly send in their names and addresses to Mrs. Marion Holmes, 327, Brighton-road, South Croydon?

**Country Order Department.**—A country order department has been organised for the benefit of friends who wish to buy at the International Suffrage Fair, but who will be unable to come to London. For particulars apply to Mrs. Rose, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

**Refreshment Department.**—Whole-time waitresses most urgently needed; by sending me your name now, you will save a great amount of worry and anxiety.

**Help.**—Miss Clarke, Hon. Branch Secretary, Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs, is willing to get work done for other Branches who can provide materials but have no time to make them up; and Miss Ada Mitchell, Merok, Great North Road, Highgate, N., will embroider tops for djibbahs, blouses, tunics, &c.

**Urgent.**—All measurements must be sent in during the coming week, as our work is being seriously hampered for want of them.

**Literature Stall.**—Will members and friends who have written books and pamphlets contribute autograph copies to this stall?

**Subscriptions.**—Members who have no time to work have promised donations towards the expenses of the Fair. We are, therefore, this week, opening a subscription list, and trust that the members of the Women's Freedom League, and friends who sympathise with our aim, will respond generously to our appeal.

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of a postal order from "A Working Woman," and to thank her for her kind and helpful words, which will inspire me to fresh endeavour.

## AT HEADQUARTERS.

**London Meetings.**—As Parliament opens Monday, October 7, we have decided to hold a public meeting at Caxton Hall that evening, and have been extremely fortunate in securing the following speakers: Mr. H. N. Brailsford, Mrs. Cope (who will deal with the subject of Irishwomen and the Home Rule Bill), and Mrs. Merivale Mayer. The chair will be taken by Miss Nina Boyle at 8 p.m. This is the first of a series of evening meetings, and we hope our friends will rally to our support next Monday evening. Admission is free, but a few reserved seats can be obtained from the W.F.L. office at 1s. each.

A Poster Parade round the House of Commons will precede the meeting, and volunteers for it are asked to send in their names at once to Mrs. Huntsman. Those taking part in the Parade should be at 1, Robert-street, not later than 2.45 p.m.

Wednesday afternoon, October 7, at Caxton Hall, we shall have the pleasure of listening to Mr. J. Cameron Grant and to Mrs. Merivale Mayer, who will give an

address on "The New Conscience." Both these speakers are extremely popular, and we hope their many friends will come in good numbers and show their appreciation of them in a thoroughly practical way. The chair will be taken by Miss Underwood at 3.30 p.m.

**Scotland.**—Miss Anna Munro is now working again in Scotland, and she will take the chair at a meeting arranged by our Glasgow Branch at the Athenæum, October 15, when the speakers will be Mr. D. M. Mason, M.P., and Mr. Laurence Housman. We are sure that with this programme the success of the meeting is ensured. We are glad to learn that our new Rothsay Branch is getting into working order and that the members are making great preparation for their public meeting towards the end of October, which Miss Munro is to address.

**Wales.**—Miss Andrews is now in Wales visiting our Cardiff, Aberdare, Barry, and Swansea Branches. We are pleased to note that Swansea members have arranged a meeting for Mrs. Despard and Miss Andrews on Oct. 8 at 9 Sketty-road.

**Provinces.**—Our Sheffield Branch has arranged for a lecture by Mrs. Despard on "Prometheus Unbound," October 9, her chairman on that occasion being Mr. Edward Carpenter. On October 16 Mr. Laurence Housman will speak at a meeting arranged by our Liverpool Branches at Yamen Assembly Rooms, Bold-street, the chairman being the Rev. D. H. Roberts.

**International Suffrage Fair.**—Very satisfactory reports are coming in of the work done by our Branches for this Fair, to be held in Chelsea Town Hall, November 13, 14, 15, and 16. Goods are coming for it from all countries, and we hope to welcome at it many distinguished foreign Suffragists. Workers in London are cordially invited to come to the offices of the Women's Freedom League each Wednesday evening, from six till ten o'clock, where they will meet and work together with representatives of British and foreign stalls.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## POLITICAL NEWS.

### Welsh Liberals Support Woman Suffrage—

At the annual meeting of the Merioneth Liberal Association on September 26, at which Mr. Haydn Jones, M.P. for the constituency, was the principal speaker, the following resolution was passed:—

"That this meeting, while strongly disapproving of physical violence by a certain section of woman suffragists, is of opinion that the wrong action of a few does not justify the withholding of a great and needed reform. It, therefore, wishes to place on record its earnest hope that the House of Commons will adopt an amendment to the Government's Reform Bill, enfranchising women householders and wives of householders."

### Also Welsh Women Liberals—

Delegates from the North Wales area of the Women's Liberal Federation attended a meeting at Carnarvon on September 24, over which Mrs. Lloyd George presided. A resolution was passed urging the Government to restore Clause I. of the Criminal Law Amendment Act (White Slave Traffic Bill) to its original meaning. The following Woman Suffrage resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That this meeting of Women's Liberal Associations of North Wales affiliated to the Women's Liberal Federation records its gratitude to Mr. Lloyd George and those Welsh Members of Parliament who have supported the enfranchisement of women, and urges them to do all in their power to secure the passing of a Women's Suffrage amendment to the Government Reform Bill; and, while condemning the acts of criminal violence by a certain section, this meeting holds that the wrong action of a few does not justify the withholding of a just and much-needed reform, and calls upon each Women's Liberal Association in this area to strengthen the hands of these members and to redouble its efforts in the cause of Women's Suffrage."

### And Mr. Lloyd George's Brother.

Mr. William George, brother of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking at a Temperance demonstration near Pwllheli, on September 26, strongly supported Woman Suffrage, though he protested against militancy. He said that he had been doubtful as to the effects in certain directions of granting votes to women, but there could be no question that their influence on legislation would powerfully further the cause of temperance and purity. For that reason he had of late years been strongly in favour of extending the franchise to women."



### Lord Robert Cecil Favours the "Municipal Franchise" Amendment.

In his speech early last week in connection with the Redhill Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Lord Robert Cecil, after a protest against militancy, said that he did not agree with the proposal to enfranchise all women, because he thought women should be treated as men, who did not get the vote all in a lump, but gradually during eighty years. Neither did he altogether agree with the proposal to give the vote to all householders, whether married or unmarried, which would give them half as many women as men on the electorate, although he would vote for even that amendment if it was likely to be carried. But the proposal which mostly met with his approval was that which would give the franchise to all women who at present possessed the municipal vote. He added that he would be hypocritical if he spoke politically from any other point of view than that of a Conservative, but he confessed that he could not understand the nervousness and fears of some of his Conservative friends as to the granting of Woman Suffrage in any form. What his Conservative friends were afraid of was that ultimately all women would get the vote so that the country would be governed by women. This was a dangerous argument for a Conservative to press to the utmost. If they were always going to say that they would not do what was just through fear of the concession to justice being used for improper purposes later on, the great mass of the people would say, "Here is a man who is afraid to do justice, and for a man of that kind we have no use whatever." It was the greatest nonsense to talk about handing over the Government to women. On what question were women going to vote together? He thought they would be rather severe on drunkenness and in favour of drastic legislation on the White Slave Traffic, and might be inclined to go rather far in stopping the sweating of poor women, but they would have to go very far in such questions before they persuaded him that their action was dangerous to the State. The idea that women would vote in the mass as one woman was a delusion and a nightmare."

### Remove the Stigma from the Bill!

The eighteenth annual report of the Chatham and District Trades and Labour Council says:—

"A Reform Bill for extending the franchise has recently been introduced, and a glaring defect is the non-inclusion of women in its scope. Organised Labour, ever the friend of the voteless women, should express its opinion in no uncertain voice by supporting its Parliamentary representatives' endeavours to remove this stigma before the Bill becomes law."

### A Suffragist Suffers: Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington.

The committee of the Rathmines School of Commerce has dismissed Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington from her post as teacher of German in the school. It is generally understood that the dismissal is owing to her Suffragist activities, and recent imprisonment, in spite of the flimsy excuse of the—usual—falling off in the summer of the numbers attending the classes. Dr. May Hayden, writing to *The Freeman's Journal*, says:—

"It appears to me that the public judgment on their action should be quite independent of approval or disapproval of Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington's political views. For my own part, I am wholly opposed to militant Suffragette tactics, at least, in Ireland at present. But it is surprising that in this country, where sympathy has always been accorded to the men who suffer for their political principles and political action, where the very fact that they have so suffered has not infrequently been the cause of their advancement to offices of public trust and emolument, a woman who has shown a courage equal to theirs should be deprived of her means of livelihood without a voice being raised in her defence."

### Women Workers in Council at Oxford.

This week, the seventeenth annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers is taking place at Oxford, attended by delegates from forty-five different Branches all over the kingdom. Mrs. Allan H. Bright, President of the Union, writing in *The Standard*, observed:—

"The National Union of Women Workers has been called 'a power-house' of social, philanthropic, and educational activities, and it is a power-house with stations up and down the country to which it flashes and from which it receives continually useful and valuable information. It is a visible expression of the quiet, steady progress of women's work; it is an important adjunct in helping them to understand the problems of to-day, and by its success it is a proof that they have the ability to organise well and to confer wisely. It draws within the sphere of its interest all classes, from the poorest industrial worker whom the Industrial Sectional Committee has tried so often and, happily, not always in vain to help, to the brilliant professional woman for whose recognition and equal opportunities of employment with men the Union has always worked."

The Women's Freedom League is affiliated to the Union, and Mrs. Tanner, who is the League's delegate this year, will send a special report to *THE VOTE* next week.

### "Ben Trovato"!

When the suffragists played pranks on the golf-links at Balmoral, says *Heath and Home* this week, we predicted that the young Princes would be delighted, and would very probably be inspired to follow so exhilarating an example or even to better the teaching. And this, it appears, is what has happened,

The day after the Suffragists' raid the whole Palace was by the ears; someone, it is reported, had pinned a label with "Votes for Women" on it on the bedroom door of the Minister in attendance, who happened to be Mr. Winston Churchill. The maids were brought up and cross-examined, but all declared that they knew nothing of the occurrence. Everyone was at a loss when it appeared that the stables, too, and outbuildings had been similarly decorated. A severe inquisition revealed the fact that the young Princes were the culprits, and so Princes Albert, Henry, and George came in for a wiggling. Fortunately the King and Queen took the little escapade lightly. Boys will be boys, it seems, and Suffragettes, Suffragettes."

## THE MEN WHO GOVERN US.

### Trop de Zele.

The men who govern us are supported and reported by a Press, of which their well-wishers might be inclined to exclaim: "Save us from our friends." The zeal of these party organs is tempered by few considerations of taste, judgment or discretion; fair-play, and even truthfulness, go by the board when party storms rage and political motives prompt. This makes the party organs very instructive reading for Suffragists, and we commend a strict perusal of the Daily Press to all as a healthy intellectual exercise. Journalistic disapproval of Suffragist methods and disdain of Suffragist pretensions is not only displayed by these virtuous publications in—

Compounding for sins they are inclined to, "By damning those they have no mind to;

but by the still more elementary process of damning and compounding both, according as they are committed by Suffragists or by politicians whose colour the said publications happen to reflect. In this, the Press follows its leaders with touching fidelity. Several entertaining examples have been given lately of how easy it is to catch out even Cabinet Ministers, whose incautious phrasing of what they call their "principles" has afforded texts for Suffragist sermons. The Daily Press, in its clamorous determination to do its best and "damn the consequences," seconds the interesting efforts of the gentlemen who evoke its passionate admiration in a style which we, from time to time, commend to the attention of our readers.

### Some Happy Efforts.

*The Pall Mall Gazette*, for instance, gives editorial utterance to its unrestrained feelings on the subject of Ulster at great and grandiloquent length. The people of North-East Ulster, we are informed, "refuse to accord to it (Home Rule), the assent usually given by law-abiding people to the law." We may, magisterially declares this oracle, hold them right or hold them wrong; we have not to do with opinions but with a fact. (The position set forth, our readers will observe, is in all essentials that taken up by the W.F.L.) Proceeding, the editor goes on to say, in reference to the outbreaks of temper in the Belfast dockyards and elsewhere: "The eruptions which have occurred are simply those which should have been—nay, must have been—expected by those who disturb the thin crust over the slumbering volcano of religious and political emotions in such a province. . . . The introduction of the Home Rule Bill has necessarily been followed by these ebullitions. The Ulstermen are not lambs to be led to the slaughter."

Substitute Suffragists for Ulstermen, and Franchise for Home Rule Bill, and we could make our bow to the worthy man who edits *The Pall Mall Gazette* and say: "Them's our sentiments," or words to that effect. True, this compliment would not give him any deep gratification, but that is not our fault. We pay to his

### HUMANITARIAN FURS.

If you have not yet bought your Furs why not get them direct from the manufacturer and thereby save 50 per cent.? A visit to our Show-rooms will convince you that this is an absolutely genuine opportunity to get your Furs at half the retail prices. The Newest Shapes in Soft Fur Hats, Stoles and Muffs. We make a speciality of Humanitarian Furs, of which we have a choice selection. Old furs remodelled and brought up to date. GOLDSTEIN AND Co., Wholesale Furriers, 9, South-street, E.C. (near Moorgate-street Station).—Advt.

genius the tribute we think owing, and if he still remains an Anti-Suffragist, it is not for want of arguments (in our favour) of his own providing!

### Wanted: A Sense of Humour.

Without a shadow of a smile *The Daily Mail* reproduces the "resolution" of Ulster. Such phrases as "By no law can the right to govern those whom we represent be bartered away without their consent"; "So now it may be ordained that our deliverance shall be by our own hands"; "Whatever shall befall, no such domination shall be thrust upon us," fail to recall to the obsessed journalistic mind any echo of another and equally stubborn, equally defensible struggle! The gathering of 450 delegates in the Ulster Hall, "from every part of the province, from every town and hamlet, from every countryside," appears to *The Daily Mail* a notable, solemn event, notwithstanding the flouts and sneers at equally representative and far greater gatherings of women delegates on many occasions in an immeasurably grander movement. "If courage and enthusiasm, if devotion to a leader, if foresight and preparation are the conditions of victory, then Ulster must win," cries this undaunted partisan of the cause it advocates. "That he has the complete confidence of his people cannot be questioned. They are ready to follow whithersoever he may choose to lead them," it says of the leader. If this be true of the Ulster uproar, may it not be said with equal truth of Suffragism, with or without the sanction of Carmelite House? We offer, with due humility, this proposition to Lord Northcliffe and his minions.

### The Heritage of Chivalry.

*The Daily Express* takes us on to other ground with even more of profit and gratification. This pleasant journal provides details of the unsavoury performance at Llanystumdwy, "a day's debauch of pleasant excitement." "The star turn of the day," it assures us, was "a real live Suffragist hunt. Athletic quarrymen of Llanystumdwy bearing home to-night the trophies of rent skirts and torn strands of hair would assure you that the Suffragist hunt was decidedly the success of the show."

Without a pause, after describing the incidents of the "hunt," *The Daily Express* continues thus:—

### Fair Play in Politics.

In his speech Mr. Lloyd George said there was no country in the world where political warfare was fought under stricter and more honourable rules of fair play and personal chivalry than in Great Britain.

"That," he said, "is a worthy pride and boast for this land, and they fight all the more effectively because they fight honourably."

"It is true that on both sides there are men whose zeal and malignity outrun their judgment and their sense of honour, but it is to the credit of both parties that men of that kind are never held in high esteem and never attain high position in either party."

"Braves who lurk in the dark, who use poisoned weapons, and who fling hatchets in political life are heartily despised, even by those whose cause they imagine they are serving."

And in a leading article the editor expresses the pleasure it gives him to agree with Mr. George as above, in the following remarkable sentences:—

It remains the fact that in this country, pre-eminently, men are able to disagree most profoundly on the most crucial points of policy and conduct without becoming personal enemies, without imputing to one another the most sordid motives. This is the legacy of the grand manner of an earlier day, a heritage of chivalry which we do well to cherish.

The graphic account of the beating of a fainting woman with sticks and cabbage stumps, the action of one who (in the grand manner which is a heritage of chivalry), "laughing and waving his hands, struck her a terrible blow on the jaw"; and of another who "pulled out a bunch of hair and boastfully waved it to the view of those around him," while others threw another girl in a ditch, stoned her, and attempted to throw her over a bridge on to a rocky river-bed below, makes the extracts we reprint so singularly appropriate and well-timed that comment on our part would be entirely superfluous. In the face of militant action of this description the mere throwing of a hatchet is as water unto wine. It would

## The Fashion for Velours Delaine



There has arisen during the last few weeks a great demand for Tailor-made in Velours Delaine, and we have now in stock a large number of Paris Models in this material which can be copied exactly at very moderate prices. We have also a large selection of Ready-to-Wear garments in Velours Delaine at prices ranging from 90/- to 15 gns., all exact copies of new Paris Models.

STREET SUIT (as sketch) made in New Velours Delaine, coat lined silk, and buttons of self material, corselet skirt. Perfectly cut and tailored.

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(Cavendish Square) London W.

appear that political opponents, being women, are as much excluded from the benefits of the "heritage of chivalry" as by that heritage they are excluded from the benefits of the Law and the Constitution.

C. NINA BOYLE.

### SUFFRAGE ATELIER "AT HOME."

One of the most interesting products of the Women's Suffrage Movement has been the formation of the Suffrage Atelier, which has its headquarters at 6, Stanlake-villas, Shepherd's Bush. On Thursday, September 26, the Atelier was transformed into an exhibition of pictorial postcards, educational posters, and art needlework of every variety, including a varied show of Suffrage banners. A quaint little upstairs room was turned into a market place, and with its sloping roof and alcoves, presented an old world air which lent itself to the telling of fairy stories from Hans Andersen, which were cleverly rendered by Miss Raleigh. The flowers decorating the room had been grown in the garden of Miss Bennet, and one reflected what a solace the thought of this garden must have been to her during her terms of imprisonment. In a room adjoining was displayed the needlework of Mrs. Gosling, which was very much admired, and justly so, not only for its technique, but also for the artistic way in which it is designed and coloured.

Down stairs one realised what a good effect can be produced by artistic arrangement. Noticeable among the many exhibits were the pictorial posters, and everyone present could not but see what good object lessons they provided in regard to our movement, and what splendid means of propagandum they form if only Suffragists will avail themselves of them.

The Atelier is run entirely by women artists, who make their own designs, cut blocks and do the printing of posters, postcards, Christmas cards and pictorial leaflets, the uniform of the women being a bright blue workmanlike coat, a black skirt, and a big black bow like that beloved of the artists who dwell near the Luxembourg. Miss Willis was a charming hostess, and was admirably supported by Mrs. Tritton, Miss Jacobs, Miss Joseph, Mrs. Waller, and other friends. Tea was served, and this included home-made cakes which were voted to be delicious; one doubted if the Antis, with all their time spent at home, could have made them better; anyhow, they would not have enjoyed the eating of them as much as we did. "At Homes" are being held at the Atelier on the last Thursday in every month, and anyone who wishes to spend a pleasant hour or two could not do better than avail themselves of the invitation to attend.

C. A.



## GREAT PROTEST MEETING AGAINST THE IMPRISONMENT OF MR. MARK WILKS.

**"NO GOVERNMENT CAN STAND RIDICULE. THE POSITION IS RIDICULOUS!"**

The great meeting of indignant protest against the imprisonment of Mr. Mark Wilks, held at the Caxton Hall on September 25, under the auspices of the Women's Tax Resistance League, will be not only memorable but epoch-making. The fight for woman's citizenship in "free England" has led to the imprisonment of a man for failing to do what was impossible. Throughout the meeting the humour of the situation was frequently commented upon, but the serious aspect was most strongly emphasized. Sir John Cockburn, who presided, struck a serious note at the outset; for anything, he said, that touched the liberty of the citizen was of the gravest importance. He remarked that it was the first occasion on which he had attended a meeting to protest against the action of law.

The resolution of protest was proposed by Dr. Mansell Moullin, whose many and continued services to their Cause are warmly appreciated by all Suffragists in a very able speech, and ran as follows:—

"That this meeting indignantly protests against the imprisonment of Mr. Mark Wilks for his inability to pay the tax on his wife's earned income, and demands his immediate release. This meeting also calls for an amendment of the existing Income-tax law, which, contrary to the spirit of the Married Women's Property Act, regards the wife's income as one with that of her husband."

### A Husband the Property of His Wife.

Dr. Moullin expressed his pleasure in supporting his colleague, Dr. Elizabeth Wilks, in the protest against the outrage on her husband. The case, he said, was not a chapter out of "Alice in Wonderland," but a plain proof that, although imprisonment for debt has been abolished in England, a man may be deprived of his liberty for non-payment of money which was not his, and which he could not touch. The only argument that could be used was that Mr. Wilks was the property of his wife. Twice distraint had been made on the furniture of Mrs. Wilks, the third time the authorities carried off her husband; it is the first occasion on which it has been proved that a husband is the property of his wife. The law allows a man to put a halter round the neck of his wife, take her to the market-place and sell her, and this has been done within recent years; but there is no law which allows the Inland Revenue authorities to sell a husband for the benefit of his wife. Governments, he added, can stand abuse, but cannot stand ridicule, and the position with regard to Dr. Wilks and her husband is both ridiculous and anomalous. The serious question behind the whole matter was how far anyone is justified in resisting the law of the land. The resister for conscience' sake is the martyr of one generation and the saint of the next. Dr. Moullin doubted whether the Hebrews or Romans of old would recognise what their laws had become; we are ashamed of the outrageous sentences for trivial offences passed by our forefathers; our children will be ashamed of the sentences passed to-day. Everything in the law connected with women required reconstruction from the very foundation, declared Dr. Moullin. Constitutional methods, like Royal Commissions, were an admirable device for postponing reform; all reformers were unconstitutional; they had to use unconstitutional methods or leave reform alone. The self-sacrifice of an individual makes a nation great; that nation is dead when reformers are unwilling to sacrifice themselves.

### No Man Safe.

Mr. George Bernard Shaw was the next speaker, and gave a characteristically witty and autobiographical address. He said that this was the beginning of the revolt of his own unfortunate sex against the intolerable henpecking which had been brought upon them by the refusal of the Government to bring about a reform which everybody knew was going to come, and the delay of which was a mere piece of senseless stupidity. From the unfortunate Prime Minister downwards no man was safe. He never saw his wife reflecting in a corner without some fear that she was designing some method of putting him and his sex into a hopeless corner. He never spoke at suffrage gatherings. He steadily refused to join the ranks of ignominious and superfluous males who gave assistance which was altogether unnecessary to ladies who could well look after themselves.

Under the Married Women's Property Act the husband retained the responsibility of the property and the woman had the property to herself. Mr. Wilks was not the first victim. The first victim was G. B. S. The Government put on a supertax. That fell on his wife's income and on his own. The authorities said that he must pay his wife's supertax. He said, "I do not happen to know the extent of her income." When he got married he strongly recommended his wife to have a separate banking account, and she took him at his word. He had no knowledge of what his wife's income was. All he knew was that she had money at her command, and he frequently took advantage of that by borrowing it from her. The authorities said that they would have to guess at the income; then the

Government passed an Act, he forgot the official title of it, but the popular title was the Bernard Shaw Relief Act. They passed an Act to allow women to pay their supertax. In spite of this Act, ordinary taxpayers were still apparently under the old régime, and as Mrs. Wilks would not pay the tax on her own income Mr. Wilks went to gaol. "If my wife did that to me," said Mr. Shaw, "the very moment I came out of prison I would get another wife. It is indefensible."

Women, he added, had got completely beyond the law at the present time. Mrs. Leigh had been let out, but he presumed that after a brief interval for refreshments she would set fire to another theatre. He got his living by the theatre, and very probably when she read the report of that speech she would set fire to a theatre where his plays were being performed. The other day he practically challenged the Government to starve Mrs. Leigh, and in the course of the last fortnight he had received the most abusive letters which had ever reached him in his life. The Government should put an end to the difficulty at once by giving women the vote. As he resumed his seat Mr. Shaw said: "I feel glad I have been allowed to say the things I have here to-night without being lynched."

### Bullying Fails.

Mr. Laurence Housman laid stress on the fact that the Government was endeavouring to make Mrs. Wilks, through her affection, do something she did not consider right. Liberty could only be enjoyed when laws were not an offence to the moral conscience of a people. Laws were broken in this country every day because they were not practicable. Every man, according to law, must go to church on Sunday morning, or sit two hours in the stocks; it was unlawful to wheel perambulators on the pavement. If the police were compelled to administer all the laws on the Statute Book, England would be a hell. To imprison Mr. Wilks for something which he had not done and could not do was as sane as if a servant were sent to prison because her employer objected to lick stamps under the Insurance Act. The Government had tried bullying, but women had shown that it did not pay. Self-respecting people break down a law by demonstrating that it is too expensive to carry.

### Question for the Solicitor to the Treasury.

The legal aspect was the point specially dealt with by Mr. Herbert Jacobs, chairman of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage. He said that it was stupidity, not chivalry, which deprived the husband under the Married Women's Property Act of 1882 of the right to his wife's earnings, but did not relieve him of responsibility to pay for her. Imprisonment for debt has been abolished; but if it could be shown that a man had the means to pay and refused to pay, he could be sent to prison for contempt of court. Mr. Jacobs suggested that the Solicitor to the Treasury should be asked to reply to the following question: "What has Mr. Wilks done or omitted to do that he should be imprisoned for life?" The law, he added, does not compel a man to do that which he cannot possibly perform. The action of the Inland Revenue authorities may be illegal; it certainly is barbarous and ridiculous.

### Bad Bungling.

Mr. H. G. Chancellor pointed out that the Married Women's Property Act was an endeavour by men to remove injustice to women, but because they did not realise the injustices from which women suffer and avoided the woman's point of view, they bungled badly. No one can respect a ridiculous law, and the means to be taken in the future to avoid making ridiculous laws, must be to give women the right to make their opinions effectively heard through the ballot-box. Mr. Chancellor said that he had investigated 240 Bill laid on the table of the House, and had found that 123 were as interesting to women as much as to men; twenty-one affected women almost exclusively; six had relation to the franchise. "When we consider these Bills," he added, "we rule out the whole experience and knowledge of women. We must abolish sex privilege as it affects legislation. I appeal to men who are Antis to consider the Wilks case, which is possible just so long as we perpetuate the huge wrong of the continued disfranchisement of women."

### Refinement of Cruelty.

In a moving speech, the Rev. Fleming Williams declared that the case of Dr. Wilks and her husband ought to appeal to men all over the country. He spoke of the personal interviews he had had with Mr. Wilks in the presence of a warder, and of the effect of imprisonment upon him. It was impossible to contemplate without horror the spectacle of the Government's attempt to overcome the wife's resistance by the spectacle of her husband's sufferings. If she added to his pain by humiliating surrender, it would lower the high ideal he cherishes of her principles. "She dare not do it; she will not do it!" exclaimed Mr. Williams. He added that he had had an opportunity of waiting upon the Inland Revenue Board and tried to show

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## IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT OF LAW-MAKERS.

We hope earnestly that before this issue of our VOTE appears, news of the release of Mark Wilks will be brought to us. It seems to us impossible that the authorities of the country can persist in their foolish and cruel action. But, in the meantime and in any case, it may be well for us seriously to consider the situation. We are bound together, men and women, in a certain order. For the maintenance of that order, it has been found necessary for communities and nations all over the world to impose laws upon themselves. In countries that call themselves democratic, it is contended that the civil law is peculiarly binding, because the people not only consent, but, where they have sufficient understanding, demand that the laws which bind them shall, in certain contingencies, be made or changed or repealed according to their need, and because by their voice they place in seats of power the men whom they believe to be honest and wise enough to carry out their will.

That, at least, is the ideal of democracy. For several generations the British nation has claimed the honour of being foremost in the road that leads to its achievement. We (or rather the men of the country) boast of our free institutions, of our free speech, of the liberty of the individual within the law to which he has consented, of the right to fair trial and judgment by his peers when he is accused of offences against that law; above all—and now we have the difference between a democratically governed country and one under despotic rule—not to be liable to punishment for the omission of that which he is unable to perform.

It seems clear and simple enough—what any intelligent schoolboy knows; and yet our so-called Liberal Government, which flaunts in every direction the flag of democracy, which proclaims, here severely and there with dulcet persuasion, that liberty for all is their aim, and that "the will of the people shall prevail," does not hesitate, when it is question of a reform movement which it dislikes and despises, to set itself in direct opposition to its own avowed principles.

For what do the arrest and imprisonment of Mark Wilks mean? We are perfectly certain that it will not last long. Stupid and inept as it has been, the Government, we are certain, will not risk the odium which would justly fall upon it if this outrage on liberty went on. A Government which has much at stake and which lives by the breath of popular opinion cannot afford to ignore such strong and healthy protest as is being poured out on all sides. To us, who are in the midst of it, that which seems most remarkable is the growth of public feeling. In the streets where processions are nightly held, we were met at first by banter and rowdiness. "A man in prison for the sake of Suffragettes!" To the boy-mind of the metropolis, on the outskirts of

many an earnest crowd, that seemed irresistibly funny; but thoughtfulness is spreading; into even the boy-mind, the light of truth is creeping. If it had done nothing else, the imprisonment of Mark Wilks has certainly done this—it has educated the public mind. It is not we, the Suffragists alone—it is women and men in hosts who are asking, What do these things mean?

On the part of these in our movement they mean courage, determination, skilful generalship—aye, and speedy triumph. On the part of our opponents, perplexity and failure.

"This is defeat, fierce king, not victory," said Shelley's Prometheus, when from his rock of age-long pain he hurled heroic defiance at his tormentor.

The ills with which thou torturest gird my soul  
 To fresh resistance till the day arrive  
 When these shall be no types of things that are.

Woman, in this professedly liberty-loving country, may echo the hero's words. Defeat, in very truth, for what can the authorities do? Their position is an extraordinary one. In a lucid interval, politicians—not clearly, it may be, understanding the issues involved—passed the Married Women's Property Act. We believe there were no Antis then to guide and encourage woman-fearing man. This may partly account for it. In any case, the deed was done. Married, no less than single women and widows, became owners of their own property and lords of their own labour. It would have saved the country from much unnecessary trouble if, then, politicians had gone a step further, if they had recognised woman's personal responsibility as mother, wage-earner or property-owner, and had dealt with her directly. Love of compromise, unfortunately, weighs too deeply on the soul of the modern politician for him to be able to take so wise a course, and it is left for his successor to unravel the tangle.

What are the authorities to do? While, with threats of violence and dark hints of disciplined, organised resistance, Ulster defies them, Suffragists by almost miraculous endurance are breaking open prison doors. While brutal men, under the very eyes of a Minister of the Crown, are torturing and insulting women, in token, we presume, of their devotion to him, the story of the wrongs of women—not only these but others—is being noised abroad. None of our recent publications has been bought so freely as "The White Slave Traffic." While well-known women tax-resisters are left at large, a man who has not resisted, but who respects women and will not coerce his wife, is arrested and locked up in prison without trial, and, since he cannot pay, for an indeterminate time. A pretty mess indeed, which will take more than the subtlety of an Asquith, a Lloyd George or a McKenna to render palatable to the men on whose votes they depend for their continuance in power! In a few days they will be faced with a further difficult problem. Women are prepared to resist, not only the Income, but also the Insurance Tax.

Let us see what the alternatives are. Mark Wilks may be let out as Miss Housman was; but that will not help the Government. It is a poor satisfaction to a creditor of national importance to know that his debtor is or has been in prison. He wants his money, and the example of one resister may be followed by many others. If so, that big thing the Exchequer suffers. The creditor may, when Parliament comes together, pleading urgency, pass an Act which will make married women responsible for their own liabilities. That might result in a revolt of married women which would have serious consequences. Men who live at ease with their children, shepherded by admirable wives, would find it, to say the least, inconvenient to be deprived periodically of their services. And these men might be in the position of Mark Wilks. They might not be able to pay, while their wives might have no goods on which distraint could be made. Truly the position would be pitiable.

Over the Insurance Act the same difficulties will arise. What is a distraught Government to do?

The answer is clear. The one and only alternative

that lies before our legislators is at once to take steps whereby women—workers, mothers, property-owners—shall become citizens. That done, we will pay our taxes with alacrity; we will bring our quota of service to the State that needs our aid, and the unmannerly strife between man and woman will cease.

In the meantime, the law and the legislator are defeated ignominiously, and it is becoming more and more evident that, in a very near future, "the will of the people shall prevail."  
 C. DESPARD.

## THE "FAVOURITISM" OF THE LAW.

It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to devise a situation which would show more clearly than does the Wilks' case, how absolutely incapable is the average man of grasping a woman's point of view, or of realising her grievances and legal disabilities. For seventy years men have been coolly appropriating the Income-tax refunded by the Inland Revenue on their wives' incomes. Did anybody ever hear of a man raising a protest against the state of the law which made it possible and legal for a husband to do this? My own experience covers a good many years of Income-tax work, and the handling of some hundreds of cases, but the only complaints I have ever heard have come from the defrauded wives. I have observed that the men always accepted the position with the utmost equanimity. But now, when by the exercise of considerable ingenuity, women have contrived, for once in a way, to put the boot on the other leg, the Press and the public generally is filled with horror, and the air is rent with shrieks of protest from the male sex.

The *Evening News* sapiently remarks that women might have been expected to have more sense than to seek to show up a law which is "so obviously in their favour"! And *The Scotsman* says: "One would imagine that the last thing the Wilks' case would be used for is to illustrate the grievance which woman suffers under the law. Here two laws combine to favour the wife and inflict wrong upon the husband." And it goes on to deride women and "their inherent illogicality." Here we see clearly manifest the absolute incapacity of man to realise the existence of any injustice until it touches himself or his fellow man. Nothing could well be more logical than the holding of a man responsible for non-payment of his wife's Income-tax, since it is the necessary and inevitable corollary of the theory that a wife's income belongs to her husband, and that all refunds of Income-tax must be made to him, and to him only. It is in accordance with logic and also with strict business principles that no person can claim the advantages of his legal position while repudiating its disadvantages. Thus if a man dies leaving money, his son cannot claim to take that money and at the same time repudiate his father's debts. He must accept the one with the other. And in exactly the same way, women are no longer going to allow men to claim their legal right to demand re-payment of their wives' Income-tax, unless they also accept their legal responsibility for its non-payment. The game of heads-I-win-tails-you-lose is played out, and the sooner men realise this fact the better it will be for everybody. The "logic" of *The Scotsman* and its contemporaries is no longer good enough for women. The law must be forced to take its course where men are concerned as it does where women are concerned.

As to the provisions of the Income-tax Act favouring the wife and wronging the husband, I can only say that Mr. Wilks' case is the first in all my experience where these provisions acted adversely to the husband. And even in this case they only so acted because women had laid their heads together to bring it about, and thus show how little men relish a law of their own making when it begins to act on the boomerang principle, and they find themselves "hoist with their own petard."

A few actual instances, casually selected out of a large number, will show how wives have hitherto been "favoured." A man and his wife have £100 a year

each, taxed (at 1s. 2d. in the £) by deduction before they receive it. There are four children, on each of whom the husband is entitled to claim a rebate of £10 a year. (The wife, it should be noted, can never claim any rebate whether she has a dozen or a score of children. And if a widow, having children, re-marries, the rebate on these children goes to their *step-father*.) Consequently the husband can, and does, reclaim not only the tax deducted from his own income, i.e., £5 16s. 8d., but also the £5 16s. 8d. deducted from his wife's income. So he really pays no tax at all, and gains £5 16s. 8d. while she loses a similar amount. Thus the actual position is, that the wife is only worth £94 a year, while he is worth £106 a year, though *nominally* their incomes are the same. If single, each could claim repayment of £5 16s. 8d., therefore marriage represents a loss to the wife, but a profit to her husband.

A member of the Women's Freedom League was forced to leave her husband on account of his misconduct, and to bring up and educate her children without any financial aid from him. But for a number of years he regularly drew the "repayment" of her Income-tax, until a merciful Providence removed him from this mundane sphere, by which time it was calculated that she had lost, and he had gained, about £200. At his death she, of course, ceased to be a legal "idiot," and was allowed to claim her repayment for herself. I may remark here that the Income-tax Act has a favourite method of classifying certain sections of the community, namely, as "idiots, married women, lunatics and insane persons." I don't know precisely what the difference is between a "lunatic" and an "insane person," but doubtless there is a difference, though unintelligent persons might think they were synonymous terms.

As regards the point of resemblance between the "idiot" and the "married woman," it is rather obscure, but after intense mental application I have succeeded in locating it; and really when somebody illuminates it for you it becomes as clear as daylight. It is quite evident to me that our super-intelligent legislators are convinced that the woman who is capable of going and getting married is an utter "idiot," and in fact next door to a "lunatic." Well, men ought to know their own sex, and if they say that the women who marry them are idiots, it must be true, I suppose. We may therefore take it that a woman evinces her intelligence by remaining unmarried. I ought humbly to explain that, being married myself, I am only one of the idiots, and therefore my ideas on any subject must not be taken to have the slightest value. But to return to our instances of "favouritism," another man has £230 a year and his wife £170 a year. She pays Income-tax (deducted before receipt) to the tune of £9 18s. 4d., and he pays 2s. 6d. It sounds impossible, perhaps; but when you know the rules it is quite simple. To begin with, he gets an abatement of £160, which leaves him with £70. Then he gets a further abatement of nearly £67 for insurance premiums, a great part of which premiums are paid by his wife on her own life. This leaves him with a taxable income of slightly over £3, on which he pays 9d. in the £1., amounting to half-a-crown. This couple have no children. If they had any he would begin not only to pay no tax himself, but to have some of hers repaid to him. She, however, under any circumstances, will always be mulcted of the £9 18s. 4d.; unless she becomes a widow, when she will be able to reclaim the whole amount. (The official forms supplied to those reclaiming Income-tax read: "A woman must state whether *spinster or widow*." ) If we reverse the financial position of this couple, and assume that she receives £230 and he only £170, she would then be paying £13 8s. 4d. Income-tax. Contrast this with his payment of half-a-crown in the same circumstances, and observe how highly she is "favoured." He, however, would then pay nothing and would receive a "refund" of nearly £3 10s. a year.

A very enterprising and smart young fellow was able



to treat himself to a really nice motor-cycle—not the sort that has a "side-car for a lady"—out of his wife's "repaid" tax; repaid to him, I mean. He can't support himself, but depends on her, as she has just about enough for them both to rub along on, though she can't afford luxuries for herself, and wouldn't have paid for his. But the Inland Revenue gave him her money quite coolly and without the slightest fuss.

The "Scotsman" will be pleased to hear that this poor husband manages to bear up quite bravely under his "wrongs," and seems indeed to get a considerable amount of satisfaction out of them. His wife, I am truly sorry to say, doesn't properly appreciate the favour shown to her by the law.

But then men are naturally brave, and women are by nature a thoroughly ungrateful lot I expect, if they could only see themselves as *The Scotsman* and *The Evening News* see them. ETHEL AYRES PURDIE.

(To be continued.)

(Continued from page 402.)

them how their action appears to outside people. He had suggested that, in order to bring the law into harmony with justice, representative public men in co-operation with the Board should approach the Treasury to secure an alteration in the law. "But," declared Mr. Williams, "if women are made responsible by law it will not bring the Government an inch nearer the solution of the difficulty. They may imprison women for tax resistance, but married men would not stand it. The only way is to say to Dr. Wilks, 'We will give you the right to control the use we intend to make of your money.'"

The resolution was passed unanimously with great enthusiasm, and thus ended a meeting that will be historic.

#### The Campaign.

A great campaign is being carried on for the release of Mr. Mark Wilks.

On Saturday afternoon, September 28, the Women's Tax Resistance League held a meeting, followed by a procession in the neighbourhood of the prison, and on Sunday there was a large and very sympathetic meeting in Hyde Park. Mrs. Mustard took the chair. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Parkes were the speakers. The resolution demanding the release of Mr. Wilks was carried unanimously. Nightly meetings are held in Brixton by the Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage.

A great demonstration will take place on Saturday afternoon next, at 3.30, in Trafalgar-square. Members of the Women's Freedom League and all sympathisers are asked to come and to bring their friends. There will be a large attendance of London County Council teachers—more than 3,000 of whom have signed a petition against the arrest of Mr. Wilks.

A deputation of Members of Parliament and other influential men is being arranged by Sir John Cockburn to wait upon Mr. Lloyd George and to see him personally about the case.

#### NORTH-EASTERN BRANCHES.

Miss Boyle writes from Middlesbrough, where she is enjoying the kind hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Schofield Coates:—

"The North-Eastern Branches have given me a very kind reception, and a series of meetings, culminating in an indoor gathering here in Middlesbrough, which Mrs. Nevinston and I addressed on Monday [too late, however, for a report to appear this week.—Ed.], has been productive of good results. Mrs. Revel, at South Shields, has resumed work after her long illness, and will soon have the local members in harness again; Sunderland has suffered in the loss of Miss Clark, whose untiring energy was so great an asset to the Branch, and who has gone to Canada, and West Hartlepool regrets the serious illness of Mrs. English, who is now, happily, recovering from a sharp attack of acute rheumatism. I had the pleasure of addressing meetings of members and sympathisers in all three places, and in discussing with them matters concerning the future welfare of the Branches. Mr. Græme, who was my chairman at Sunderland, kindly assisted me next day in holding an open-air meeting in the dinner-hour; and Mrs. Smelt and I had a most successful dinner-hour meeting at the Dock Clock, West Hartlepool.

"At Stockton, in its Market-place in the wide thoroughfare of which the town is so proud, a splendid meeting was organised for me by the Middlesbrough Branch, Mrs. Close, of the Stockton Board of Guardians, presiding. The same lady presided next day at an open-air meeting in Middlesbrough, and Mr. Coates kindly took the chair at an evening meeting, when a large crowd received our statements with marked attention and sympathy."

THE QUESTION OF A LAUNDRY is often a difficult one for housewives; if you are hesitating what to do, send a postcard for price-list to the Beaconsfield Laundry, 19, Beethoven-street, Kilburn, N.W.; you may be assured that the good wages paid help to good work.

### OUR AUTUMN CAMPAIGN: CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS."

#### MR. D. M. MASON, M.P., ON OUR "TRIUMPHANT CAUSE."

Numbers and enthusiasm, as well as keen interest in the political situation, marked the first of the Weekly Wednesdays of our Autumn Campaign at the Caxton Hall, on September 25. The Council Chamber was well filled, and Mr. D. M. Mason, M.P., who showed his convictions as to woman suffrage by moving the rejection of the Franchise Bill when it was introduced into the House of Commons because women were not included, was the principal speaker.

Mrs. Huntsman, who presided, made an admirable welcoming speech. Mr. Mason insisted that it was not enough to be interested in the advancement of freedom abroad; the policy must be carried out in home affairs. The basis of the franchise was to get to know the mind of the people of the country, and as long as women were excluded from expressing their views in the practical way of the ballot box, the franchise in this country did not get at the mind of half the people. Dealing with objections to woman suffrage, Mr. Mason said that the physical force argument showed an illogical brain; it was the mind of the women that was wanted in legislation, not physical service as soldiers and sailors. On the question of patriotism and interest in foreign affairs, he instanced the extraordinary courage of the Persian women in declaring their intention to kill their husbands and sons and to die themselves if the Persian Parliament betrayed the country. Another objection frequently advanced was that if women were granted the franchise they would come still more sharply into competition with men, and that remuneration for labour would be further reduced. He believed this was a mistaken point of view. If women had the franchise they would join with the men in all grades of life in their efforts to bring about a more economical system of government, and reduce the burdens laid upon the people. The enfranchisement of women in Great Britain was an act of justice long overdue, said Mr. Mason, and it was because the Government's Franchise Bill perpetuated that injustice by increasing the franchise for men and excluding women, that he moved the rejection of the Bill. Women's votes, he added, would increase the mental power of the electorate and more equitable laws would result from the women's point of view being represented. Mr. Gladstone had said that even if the agricultural labourers were apathetic about the vote, it was right for them to have it; it was also right, declared Mr. Mason, for the women to be enfranchised even if some were apathetic. He made a plea to Suffragists outside the House of Commons to exercise charity to Members inside, and urged a wider outlook and broader interest on the part of those who were fighting for votes for women. He deprecated militancy at the moment, because it was necessary to get the sympathy of Members of the House. As to the Franchise Bill he wished that the Government had removed the stigma on women by including them in the Bill, but said he was in favour of the equality amendment, "on the same terms as men." Woman suffrage was a triumphant cause; it would not bring a new heaven and a new earth, but it would strengthen the moral character of legislation and ensure greater purity. "Its justice is its strength," said Mr. Mason; "it has behind it the Divine power; it is in accordance with Divine law, and so it is bound to come."

Mrs. Despard was the next speaker, and she expressed her great pleasure in seeing so many people present; it had been recognised that the weekly gatherings were an essential part of the work of the League, and she hoped that advantage would be taken of them to meet together every Wednesday afternoon and consider the political situation. She made an urgent appeal to those who had not joined a Suffrage Society to do so at once; everyone could help and the coming campaign was to be most strenuous. The movement had drawn women together; they had "discovered" each other. She said it was well to state clearly at the beginning of the autumn work the position of the Women's Freedom League with regard to militancy; the League had no criticism to make of the tactics adopted by sister societies; it was a militant organisation, but it considered that the best generalship at the moment was to refrain from overt militancy until the fate of the Franchise Bill was known. Pressure would be brought to bear on the Government in every possible way; women were standing by Labour and they had palpably affected the Midlothian election. The Government was in a difficult position; it had to meet the militant spirit in Ireland, and now it had put a man in prison because he could not pay the tax on his wife's income the amount of which he did not know. "The authorities must be blind to imprison a man like Mark Wilks," said Mrs. Despard, and she went on to show how excellent was his influence over the boys with whom he came into touch as Headmaster at Clapton. "The demonstrations outside Brixton prison had created a great impression," she said; "they have stimulated us as well as enlightened the man in the street!" She made an appeal for help for the International Suffrage Fair, to take place next month and ended on the triumphant note: "Come and help us to go forward in absolute confidence that we shall succeed!"

Mrs. Cobden Sanderson spoke strongly on behalf of Mr. Wilks, and then gave the welcome information that she was to stand for the coming Municipal Election as candidate for the Borough

of Hammersmith under the auspices of the Labour Party. The Liberal and Conservative Parties had no women candidates, and when she was told that the Council was no place for women, she felt that it was the very place for her! Her courageous words were received with enthusiasm and hopes for success.

#### MR. ASQUITH AND THE FREEDOM OF DUNDEE.

##### Protest by Our Dundee Branch.

The following letter has been sent to Dundee Town Council and Press, in the name of the Dundee Branch of the Women's Freedom League, protesting against the decision to confer the Freedom of the City upon the Prime Minister.

TO THE TOWN CLERK.  
DEAR SIR,—We desire in the name of Dundee Branch of the Women's Freedom League to protest against the decision of the Town Council to grant the freedom of the city to the Prime Minister. Mr. Asquith is a member of a Government which refuses to grant the rights of citizenship to women. As head of the Government he is directly responsible for the fact that women political prisoners have been treated as common criminals, and have been tortured by forcible feeding. Therefore, we consider he is, at present, unworthy of being made a Burgess of this city, which in the past has often played an honourable part in struggles for freedom.

It is particularly unsuitable that Dundee should take this step considering that a large proportion of its ratepayers are women, who must naturally resent the freedom of the city being given to one who with all due deference to his convictions has not dealt fairly with the women's claims.

We feel that the conferring of this honour should be delayed until women as well as men have full rights of citizenship.—We are,

AGNES HUSBAND (President)  
HELEN WILKIE (Secretary)  
LILA CLUNAS.

It will be remembered that Miss Clunas posted herself as a letter to Mr. Churchill a fortnight ago, but his Secretary declined responsibility for taking in this human document.

#### HOW SOME MEN PROTECT WOMEN.

[On a previous occasion two cases were quoted: (a) in which a wife was fined for disorderly conduct because her husband "objected" to her hat, snatched it off in the street and threw it away; and (b) in which a girl who resented the insolence of several male strangers who accosted her at a station was similarly arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.—Ed.]

#### More Judicial Insolence.

Samuel Burke, charged before the Justices at the Custody Court, Belfast, September 9, with having assaulted his wife. Married two months and a few days. Had left her for a fortnight, and on meeting her in the street on August 2 called her filthy names, struck her, felled her and kicked her. Prosecuting counsel *harangued the girl*, asking her if she was "going to make a wreck of her life." *Wife admonished to "go home and be a good wife,"* and her mother warned to "keep out of the young couple's married life." Husband told that he had "acted in an unmanly manner."—*Belfast News Letter.*

In the Burgh Court, Edinburgh, magistrate hearing case of wife who "told lies against her husband," recommended the husband to administer "a good thrashing."

Arthur Moore, summoned by N.S.P.C.C. for neglecting his children at Lisburn Petty Sessions during August. Would not work more than two or three days a week. Wife worked for the family, but had to give it up owing to approaching confinement. Not a thing in the house but some straw and an old quilt. No food; youngest child sleeping on an old potato sack. Mr. Allen, prosecuting, said that two months before a prosecution had also been brought and that the wife had been sent to gaol for two months, whereas in reality it was the husband who should have gone instead of the "unfortunate woman." **Three months' hard labour**, and the "unfortunate woman" and her children sent to the Union. No compensation or apology for her previous unjust conviction.

#### Comment.

Mr. Charles Grey, whose term of imprisonment (in cur Cause) ended recently, writes:—

"During my own imprisonment I was forced to wear the clothes of the ordinary hard labour prisoner, and I found myself in the company of one who had already 'done' forty-two years. Sleeping on either side of me were two men whose faults were thought so light as to merit the second division—one was sentenced to six weeks for throwing a woman downstairs, the other for three months for indecent assault. Who can demand respect for that justice which deems it a more honourable thing utterly to ruin a girl than to follow the dictates of conscience?"

#### MOST IMPORTANT.

We make two requests of our readers and friends:—

1. Please note how our advertisers can supply your many wants. Try them and mention THE VOTE.

2. Then, without fail, kindly send your receipts to the Advertisement Manager, THE VOTE Office. This is urgent and important.

## ALICE MILLS,

91-93, Westbourne Grove, London, W.

### :: LADIES' OUTFITTING, :: BLOUSES, CORSETS, HOSIERY.

Has now ON EXHIBITION WOVEN UNDERWEAR for Winter.

"PESCO" Combinations, pure wool, unshrinkable, woven seams and spliced. White only. Two sizes, high neck and short sleeves, from 6/11.

"PESCO" Combinations of silk and wool, highly recommended, a beautifully soft finished, unshrinkable garment. High neck and short sleeves. Two sizes, price 9/11.

Vests, Spencers, Nightdresses, Skirts, Knicks, and Golf Coats of "PESCO" unshrinkable wool or silk and wool.

A new garment for any "PESCO" that's rinks in washing.



An example of good value in Ladies' Nightdresses of Flannelette, trimmed Silk Insertion. Price 3/11. Similar design, trimmed Torchon Lace and Insertion of warm Scotch Winey, price 6/11, or of soft wool Nun's Veiling, 7/11.

## COLLOA

5 and 6, PATERNOSTER ROW  
(adjoining St. Paul's Churchyard),  
LONDON, E.C.



Raincoats,  
Motor Coats,  
Theatre  
Coats  
a Speciality.

FURS RENOVATED  
AND REPAIRED  
AT MODERATE  
PRICES.

COSTUMES TO  
MEASURE from  
2 Gns.

Made under personal supervision on the premises.

ILLUSTRATED  
CATALOGUE

post free on application.





## OCTOBER SALE

OF

## FUR SKINS

AND

STOLES, CRAVATS, WRAPS,  
COATS, MUFFS, &c.

BUY YOUR FURS NOW.

AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY.

"Furs, which are to be predominant in this year's winter fashions, are also to be dearer than ever, according to the statement of a Paris Fur expert."

Our Fur Buyer, anticipating the impending advance, purchased a large parcel of Skins before the increased prices took effect, and is thus able to sell them at about 45 per cent. below to-day's prices. This parcel consists of Russian and American Sables, Fox, Ermine, Squirrel, Musquash, Persian Lamb, Skunk, Coney Seal, Leopard Cat, Civet Cat, &c.

In addition to the above, we shall sell the Entire Stock of Fur Stoiles, Muffs, and Skins of Messrs. SELL & Co., of 199, Sloane-street, S.W., at a discount of 79 per cent. off SELL & Co.'s prices.

We shall also offer some very special purchases of Witney Blankets, Down Quilts, Carpets, Bedsteads, Bedding, China and Glass and Household Linen at exceptional prices.

THE WHOLE OF THE ABOVE  
WILL BE SOLD ON

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7,

AND FOLLOWING DAYS.]

PLEASE WRITE FOR CATALOGUE.

WILLIAM OWEN, Ld.,  
WESTBOURNE GROVE, LONDON, W.

### THE WOMEN'S MARCH: EDINBURGH TO LONDON.

Organising Hon. Secretary: Mrs. DE FONBLANQUE, Dunton, Petworth.

Hon. Treasurer and Route Secretary: Miss MARGARET E. BYHAM, Middle Heath, Grafton, Petworth.

Motto: "Co-operation and Goodwill."

#### IMPORTANT.

It has been decided to reverse the order of the route and to start from Edinburgh on the morning of October 15, arriving in London November 19.

So many recruits find this arrangement more convenient, and it is thought the entry into London, after accomplishing a journey of 400 miles, will be more effective.

In all other points the route and plans remain unchanged. Names of recruits and donations continue to come in; and generous offers of hospitality have reached us from places on the route.

Edinburgh members of the Women's Freedom League are organising a meeting for us on the night of October 14, and through their kind support and sympathy we anticipate a vigorous and enthusiastic send-off from Edinburgh the next morning.

It is hoped that all Suffragists will assist us by communicating with members and friends who reside at or near the places touched by the march, that we may have the help of their support on arrival.

The route will now be via Edinburgh, Musselburgh, Haddington, Dunbar, Berwick, Belford, Alnwick, Morpeth, Newcastle, Durham, Darlington, Northallerton, Thirsk, Easingfold, York, Selby, Doncaster, Bantry, Retford, Tuxford, Newark, Grantham, Stamford, Peterborough, Huntingdon, St. Neots, Biggleswade, Hitchin, Hatfield, Barnfield, London.

FLORENCE DE FONBLANQUE.

#### Forerunners.

In this connection it is interesting to note that three years ago two members of our Edinburgh Branch, the Misses N. and J. Brown, walked from Edinburgh to London, chatting of Woman Suffrage with the villagers all along the line of route southwards, many of whom had then not even heard about this question. They started from Edinburgh in June and reached London before the end of July. A further point of interest is that the father of these ladies was the last political prisoner in Calton Gaol in 1859. Mr. Brown's offence was his refusal to pay the Annuity Tax which he considered an iniquitous imposition. He was imprisoned for one week, but received the treatment of a political prisoner; he had the satisfaction of knowing that his protest led to the repeal of the Annuity Tax. The next people who committed a political offence in Edinburgh were two Suffragettes, who last year—fifty-two years later than Mr. Brown's incarceration—were imprisoned, but were not treated as political prisoners.

#### IN HYDE PARK.

Notwithstanding the showers a good crowd gathered on Sunday to hear Mrs. Despard, who spoke of the anomalies existing in our laws affecting women and taxation, and referred at length to the imprisonment of Mr. Mark Wilks for his inability to pay his wife's taxes on her earned income. A resolution expressing indignation at this and demanding Mr. Mark Wilks' release was passed with only five dissentients. The chair was taken by Mrs. Mustard, who told the audience of the indignation felt by the Clapton neighbours and friends of Mr. and Dr. Elizabeth Wilks over his imprisonment.

TEA WITHOUT TANNIN.—The perfect Teapot which ensures all the benefits and obviates all the ills of tea-drinking is now to be obtained, so tea-lovers who suffer from indigestion may cheer up. It is a tea-maker as well as a teapot, and ornamental in appearance. The chief point is that the receptacle containing the tea only remains in the water the time necessary for infusion. The water is boiled in the pot itself by means of a spirit lamp, a whistle blows, a button is turned, and lo! the perfect cup of tea. Next week we shall publish an illustration and all particulars of this new device.

WE ARE TOLD TO EXPECT A SEVERE WINTER, so this is the time to consider the subject of furs. We cannot do better than recommend our readers to visit Madame Goldstein, who is a member of the Women's Freedom League, at 9, South-street, E.C., near Moorgate-street Station. They will find that humanitarian furs are a speciality, and a wide choice is available. By going direct to the manufacturer a saving of 50 per cent. is effected. Try it.

### BRANCH NOTES.

NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON.—1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C. A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Anerley and Crystal Palace.—

Hon. Sec.: Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road, Anerley. Two successful meetings have been held the last two Thursdays at the Tram Terminus, Crystal Palace. Mrs. Mustard kindly spoke on September 19, and Miss Anson on September 26. It was a great help to have Miss Andrews at the Triangle, Penge, last Friday, as personal experiences carry so much weight, and she gave a most interesting account of her arrest and imprisonment for refusing to pay her taxes. THE VOTE sold well and a collection was taken. On October 4 we shall hold the last open-air meeting for the season. Miss Anson will speak on "The Present Political Situation," and we hope all sympathisers and friends will rally round to give us a good wind up.

Clapham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss UNDERWOOD, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi. Regular weekly meetings have been held on Thursday evenings at 11, Imperial-mansions, Brompton-road, to make preparations for the Irish Stall at the International Suffrage Fair. The work for this is well in hand, but our "Fair" secretary, Miss F. BRISCOE, 58, Fernlea-road, Balham, would be grateful for further gifts to this stall, and if any friends can send donations for materials we can get blouses, dressing-jackets, dressing-gowns, and children's clothes made up free of charge.

Croydon.—Office: 32A, The Arcade, High-street. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue.

A large meeting was held at the Clock, Thornton Heath, on September 26. Speaker, Mrs. Clarendon Hyde. The weekly working party will be held on Monday evenings at 7 o'clock. A good start was made on September 23. Miss Leah Anson will speak at our first "At Home" on Friday, October 4, at 3.45 p.m., on "Married Women, Past and Present."

Mid-London.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing. Many keen and busy workers were at Robert-street by 6 p.m. last Wednesday. Mrs. Huntsman very kindly provided delicious homemade cakes, which we all enjoyed during the evening. A sewing-machine will be at our disposal next Wednesday, kindly lent by Mrs. Hyde. Madame Kübler will be there to do all cutting out, or will do it beforehand if materials are sent to her to 46, Hungerford-road, Holloway, N., by next Tuesday morning; she will then very kindly take them to next week's meeting. If Mrs. Despard can again pay us a surprise visit we shall be delighted. We have permission from the secretary to keep at Headquarters a dressing-basket, trunk, or even a grocer's packing-case. Who will furnish such an article? Every article sent for our stall—"England"—must be ticketed and priced. This is important, because of the insurance. I must again beg the two stall-holders and their four sellers to send me their measurements without delay.—EVELYN DE VISMES, Hon. Sec., I.S.F., Mid-London Branch W.F.L., Delagoa, St. Margarets-on-Thames.

Stamford-hill.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. THOMSON, 7, East Bank. A "Fair" work party was held on Monday evening at Mrs. Cashmore's house, and material was cut out and prepared. On Friday the last Vegetarian Cookery Demonstration was given by Mrs. Goodwin, ably assisted by her maid. There was a good attendance, and several niceties were afterwards sold, to the profit of "Fair" funds. All present agreed in finding the dishes tempting, and the recipes valuable and pleasantly varied. On Friday evening we had our usual open-air meeting. Mr. Hawkins kindly chaired, and Mrs. Tanner spoke with her usual excellence, bringing in the "Wilks" case in her speech, as a specimen of anomaly in law in which the man suffers. The crowd was sympathetic as regarded "poor old Wilks," but was swayed otherwise by mistaken ideas of our aims and motives. We hope to have another meeting next Friday. New members have joined us.

PROVINCES.—Brighton and Hove.—Hon. Sec.: Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Hove.

A members' meeting was held at Miss Hare's house on Tuesday to conclude arrangements for the Fair. A series of weekly Wednesday afternoon working meetings will be held at different members' houses. The first was at Mrs. Budd's, and the second, on October 9, will be at 55, Brunswick-place, by kind invitation of Miss Bussé. All members and friends are welcome at 3 o'clock. If they have no work to bring, there will be some provided. Miss Hare was chosen as the International Fair sec., and the meeting closed with the playing of Miss Thomas' new suffrage songs. The stirring strength of the music should make them popular. They will be on sale on October 14.

Chester.—Hon. Sec.: Miss WOODALL, 13, Abbey-square.

Chester Branch commenced the season's work in real earnest by a most successful meeting on September 23. The chairman (Mr. H. F. Brown), in his opening speech, urged all women to stand aloof from participation in social and political work until they have the vote, and declared himself in favour of more militancy to show the public we "mean business." In a clear and fluent speech Miss Anna Munro dealt with the A B C of the movement, tracing it from the Anti-Slavery Convention to present-day aspects. After affording a hearty welcome to our President, the audience listened with attentive interest to her speech dealing with the industrial and economic aspects of the question. Mrs. Despard, declaring it would be advantageous to have a woman in every architect's office in the country. Thanks are due to many members who helped to make the meeting successful by decorating the hall, &c., for which one of the seven new members who joined, Mrs. Crossland Taylor, contributed plants and flowers in abundance. Owing to the zeal of Mrs. Garnett, our literary Sec., and her helpers, six shillings-worth of literature was sold and two dozen copies of THE VOTE. A weekly working party for the International Suffrage Fair is held each

Wednesday at 7 p.m., at 13, Abbey-square, and it is proposed to hold a small cake and provision sale on the first Saturday in November, and to send the proceeds toward the Fair expenses. Gifts for this will be welcomed by Miss Trotter, Suffrage Fair sec., and can be sent any time to the Branch sec., Miss Woodall, 13, Abbey-square.

Ipswich.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. PRATT, 160, Norwich-road.

We are holding working parties every Thursday evening in the Club-room at the Shop, 22, Queen-street. Members are invited to bring their friends as helpers. We are in need of more material for making up and dolls to dress. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Howard for her splendid gift of china for the shop; also to Mrs. Willis for jam. We have now a good supply of Mapleton's nut-foods in stock. Manchester (Burnage).—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. G. BRICKHILL, 33, South-avenue, Garden Village, Levenshulme.

Our sewing meeting for the International Suffrage Fair was held as usual on September 23. Mrs. G. Pearce delighted us all by her reading and explanations of a part of "Woman and Labour." Three new members were enrolled.

Middlesbrough.—Hon. Sec.: Miss A. MAHONY, 33, Albert-terrace.

We are having a busy time just now in Middlesbrough. On Friday night some of our members went to Stockton to meet Miss Boyle, and an open-air meeting was held there at the Market Cross. Mrs. Close, a member of Stockton Board of Guardians, presided. A big crowd assembled and gave Miss Boyle a very attentive and sympathetic hearing. Other members were busy the same evening distributing bills at Mr. Lonsbury's meeting. On Saturday two open-air meetings were held in Middlesbrough. Mrs. Close again presided at the afternoon meeting, and Mr. Charles Coates proved a very strong supporter of the Cause as chairman at the evening meeting. Both meetings were very successful. At night we had a huge crowd, and Miss Boyle received a very good hearing and held the interest of the people throughout. Questions were put and answered at the different meetings. Many tributes to Miss Boyle's eloquence as a speaker were made to THE VOTE sellers on the outskirts of the crowd by the people who had listened to her address. A meeting was held on Sunday evening at Stockton, and on Monday Miss Boyle and Mrs. Nevinson spoke at the Primitive Methodist schoolroom.

Wales.—Swansea.—Organising Sec.: Mrs. ROSS, Garden City, May-hill, Correspondence Sec.: Miss N. V. HUTTON, 9, Sketty-road, Uplands.

A drawing-room meeting will be held at Mrs. Hutton's, 9, Sketty-road, on Tuesday, October 8, when Mrs. Despard and Miss Andrews will be the speakers. Also a Branch meeting has been arranged for Wednesday, October 9, when we hope that all members will make an effort to be present to welcome Miss Andrews to Swansea. Arrangements are also being made for Miss Andrews to address meetings of I.L.P. and the Women's Co-operative Guild. Will all members please bear in mind the Jumble Sale which is to be held early in November, and send anything that they may have to Miss Bullin, 24, Dyllwin-street; or the things can be collected, on receipt of a postcard to 9, Sketty-road.

SOME of our members have received a letter stating that many of our Branches have appointed circulation committees to push the sale of a certain newspaper. This is an error on the part of those sending out the letter, and they have no authority for making this statement.

## MANRIEVE'S PARALAX THE NEW LAXATIVE.

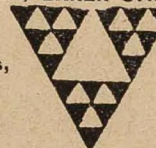
Contains 95% of purified petroleum in an agreeable palatable form. It instantly relieves and is a positive cure for Hæmorrhoids, Constipation, and Mucous Colitis.

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Through any Chemist or direct from  
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## MODERN ARTISTIC DRESS AND MILLINERY. THE STUDIO, 34, BAKER STREET, LONDON, W.

Embroidered  
Dresses, Djibbahs,  
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MORA PUCKLE.



Hand-made Hats,  
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CHARGES VERY MODERATE.

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60, Dingwall Rd.,  
CROYDON.  
Elegant and ::  
Simple Gowns  
From Three Guineas.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.



DARE TO BE FREE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Thurs., Oct. 3.—THORNTON HEATH CLOCK, Open-Air Meeting, 7.30 p.m. 14, BOHEMIA-PLACE, Hackney, W.L.L. Meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. 1, IMPERIAL-MAN- SIONS, Bromells-road, Clapham, "Fair" Sewing Meeting, 8 p.m. Fri., Oct. 4.—CROYDON, W.F.L. Shop, The Arcade, High-street, "At Home," 3.45 p.m. Miss Anson on "Married Women Past and Present," "FAIR" WORKING PARTY, 16, Northwick-park-road, Harrow, 2.30 p.m. THE TRIANGLE, Penge, Open-Air Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Miss Leah Anson. AMHURST PARK, Clapton Common, 8 p.m. Sun., Oct. 6.—HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Clarendon Hyde. Chair: Miss Spriggs. Mon., Oct. 7.—"FAIR" SEWING PARTY, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 7 p.m. LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 7 p.m. "FAIR" SEWING PARTY, 22, Gascoyne-road, South Hackney, 3 p.m. POLITICAL POSTER PARADE, leave 1, Robert-street, 2.30 p.m., and parade in Parliament-square until 5.30 p.m. BROADSBURY SMALL HALL, 8.15 p.m. Mrs. Mustard (W.F.L.) on Women's Suffrage. Caxton Hall Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: H. N. Brailsford, Esq., Mrs. Merivale Mayer, and Mrs. Cope. Chair: Miss Boyle. Tues., Oct. 8.—KENSINGTON BRANCH MEETING AND "FAIR" SEWING MEETING, 6, Argyll-road, Kensington, W., 8.15 p.m. HAMPSTEAD BRANCH MEETING, 4, Downsides-crescent, 8.15 p.m. Wed., Oct. 9.—Caxton Hall Public Meeting, 8.30 p.m. J. Cameron Grant, Esq., and Mrs. Merivale Mayer. Chair: Miss Underwood. "Fair" Sewing Meeting, 1, Robert-street, 8 to 9.30 p.m. All members and friends invited. Tea at 6 p.m. sharp. Thurs., Oct. 10.—HACKNEY BRANCH MEETING, 32, Oakfield-road, Hackney Downs, 7 p.m. Sun., Oct. 13.—HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Mustard and Miss Le Croisette. Tues., Oct. 15.—HOMERTON CONSERVATIVE CLUB, 8 p.m. Debate, Mrs. Mustard (W.F.L.) and Miss Mabel Smith (N.L.O.S.W.). Wed., Oct. 16.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle. Sat., Oct. 19.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 10 a.m. Sun., Oct. 20.—HYDE PARK, noon (weather permitting). Miss Munro and Mrs. Nourse. Sun., Oct. 27.—VICTORIA PARK, Joint Demonstration, W.F.L. Speakers: Miss Boyle and others. Mon., Oct. 28.—CAXTON HALL, Reception to Delegates to the Men's International Suffrage Alliance, 8 p.m. Speeches by the Delegates, Miss Martina Kramers and others. Wed., Oct. 30.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Sir John Cockburn, Miss Andrews, and Mrs. Clark. Nov. 13-16.—International Suffrage Fair, Chelsea Town Hall, 8 to 10 p.m. each day.

PROVINCES.

Mon., Oct. 7.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m., Branch Meeting, MANCHESTER, 33, South-avenue, Levenshulme, Burnage Branch Work Party for "Fair." Wed., Oct. 9.—Sheffield, Builders' Exchange, Cross Burgess-street, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard on "Prometheus Unbound." Chair: Edward Carpenter, Esq. Portsmouth, 17, Lombard-street, 2.30 p.m., "Fair" Sewing Meeting. BRIGHTON, 55, Brunswick-place, 3 p.m., "Fair" Work Party. CHESTER, 13, Abbey-square, 7 p.m., "Fair" Work Party. Thurs., Oct. 10.—Barnsley, Arcade Hall, 8 p.m., Public Meeting, Mrs. Despard, Miss I. O. Ford, Chairman; Sir Joseph Walton, Bart., M.P., Ipswich, 22, Queen-street, evening, "Fair" Work Party. Mon., Oct. 14.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. Speaker: Mr. Pervis. Wed., Oct. 16.—Liverpool, Yamen Assembly Rooms, Bold-street, 8 p.m. Laurence Housman, Esq., and Rev. D. H. Roberts. Mon., Oct. 21.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. Miss L. Mahony on "Women of the French Revolution."

SCOTLAND.

Fri., Oct. 4.—Rothsay, The Institute, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray. Sat., Oct. 12.—Edinburgh Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, Whist Drive, 6 p.m. Tickets 1s. 6d. each. Tues., Oct. 15.—Glasgow, Athenaeum, Public Meeting, D. M. Mason, Esq., M.P., Laurence Housman, Esq., Miss Anna Munro. Wed., Oct. 16.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, 8 p.m. B. N. V. Deva, Esq., "Position of Women in India." Fri., Oct. 25.—Rothsay, Miss Anna Munro. Sat., Oct. 26.—Glasgow, Partick, Jumble Sale.

WALES.

Tues., Oct. 8.—Swansea, 9, Sketty-road, Drawing Room Meeting, Mrs. Despard and Miss Andrews. Wed., Oct. 9.—Swansea, Branch Meeting.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sun., Oct. 6.—MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, Hyde Park (near Marble Arch), Meeting, 5 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Mr. Reginald Pott, Mr. Theodor Gugenheim. Chair: Mr. John Simpson.

SAVON AUX FLEURS.—Under this name, Messrs. John Knight, Limited, of Primrose fame, have introduced a specially attractive toilet soap in twelve selected varieties, wrapped and packed in a tasteful box, so that the distinctive perfume of each tablet is preserved. It is sold at 2s. per box—a remarkably low price for such a high-class soap—and should command a large sale amongst those who value a pure toilet soap, delicately perfumed—and a good complexion.

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WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN FRANCE.

Mrs. How Martyn writes: "Will you allow me to call the attention of your readers to the 'Congrès Permanent du Féminisme International,' which has its headquarters in Paris? It is intended to be a bond of connection between feminists of all nations; its founder and secretary, Mme. Orka, has asked me to make known that she is anxious for suffragists going to Paris to put themselves into communication with her. Especially if she desirous of knowing when well-known suffrage speakers are in Paris, so that meetings can be arranged for them. Mme. Orka's address is 36, Rue de Penthièvre, Paris, and I can speak from recent personal experience that a warm welcome, information as to meetings, and much help in trying to understand the movement in France, will be given to suffragists visiting Paris."

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

The Actresses' Franchise League.—2, Robert-street, Adelphi. The first public "At Home" of the season of the Actresses' Franchise League will be held at the Criterion Restaurant on Friday, October 4, at 3 p.m., when Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mr. Baillie-Weaver, and Professor Bickerton will be the speakers. The Chair will be taken by Miss May Whitty and Miss Marie Tempest will be the hostess on this occasion. Members and friends are especially asked to be present, as the autumn arrangements will be announced. Women Writers' Suffrage League, Goschen-buildings, 12, Henrietta-street, W.C. The members of the Women Writers' Suffrage League are asked to note that an "At Home," following an extraordinary general meeting for the transaction of important business, will be held on Thursday, October 10, at which Miss Elizabeth Robins will be hostess, and to which members may bring friends. Full particulars and invitation cards will be sent to each member in the course of a few days. Free Church League for Woman Suffrage.—General Sec.: Rev. C. FLEMING WILLIAMS, 2, Holmby-view, Springfield, Clapton, N.E. A public meeting is to be held in the Hampstead Town Hall on Friday, October 4, at 8.15 p.m. The Chairman will be Rev. C. Fleming Williams. Speakers: Miss Margaret Robertson, Dr. Horton, Dr. Frances Willey, Rev. Henry Gow, B.A. Tickets, 1s. and 6d., to be had of Mrs. Belles, 3, Downshire-hill. The object of the meeting is to inaugurate a Hampstead Branch of the F.C.L.

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The Women's Freedom League

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# OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

## The Women's Freedom League

WILL HOLD A

### PUBLIC MEETING

AT

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER,  
Monday, October 7th, 8 p.m.

Speakers: H. N. BRAILSFORD, Esq.

Mrs. COPE (who will deal with the subject of Irish Women and the Home Rule Bill).

Mrs. MERIVALE MAYER.

Chairman: Miss NINA BOYLE.

**ADMISSION FREE. A Few Reserved Seats at 1/- each.**

**A Poster Parade** of members of the Women's Freedom League will take place round the House of Commons MONDAY AFTERNOON.

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