

# Women's Freedom League

## TEMPORARY NEWS SHEET.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.

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

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc. A.R.C.S.

Hon. Treasurer: MISS BENNETT.

Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

President: MRS. DESPARD.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

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No. 1.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1909.

ONE HALFPENNY.

### Birrellings.

THE deputations that "did not work on militant lines" that visited Lord Crewe and Mr. Birrell last week must have come away feeling that they had reaped but little reward for their policy of good behaviour. Possibly, of course, the laughter raised by Mr. Birrell's half-humorous allusion to women who "opposed the granting of the vote to other women," laughter in which, we are told by the daily press, that exalted gentleman himself joined, may have cheered and soothed them somewhat—but there was very little else. (Of course it is only funny when women do these things. Men who oppose the granting of the vote to other men are not humourists, they are wise, far-seeing, and patriotic statesmen—or unmitigated scoundrels and tyrannical despots—it just depends upon whether you belong to their party or not which view you take.)

Lord Crewe rather gave away the political game when he said that he doubted whether the Suffragists had really as many friends as they imagined in the House. Many men had given support to the question without really considering how it was to be solved. Well, we have known for some time that politicians say a good many things they don't mean, and talk about a great many things they don't understand.

The question of Women Suffrage, however, is one that they are not likely to treat in this way again. Mr. Asquith and his supporters may imagine he has settled the question and dammed the flowing tide with his remark, "Don't be silly," like a second Mrs. Partington, but at every by-election it will be forced upon them again, and at the General Election—if the Government has not come to its senses by then—there will be no fear of members who call themselves friends being returned who are vaguely in favour of "Votes for Women," but who are not prepared to consider it as practical politics. They will find that it is practical politics of the most urgent and insistent kind, a question that will not be settled by Mr. Birrell's exquisite humour, or friendly little deputations that indulge in informal chats.

### Women at the Trades' Union Congress.

THE women who support the Adult Suffragists with such touching fidelity have just had another sharp lesson. Once again the trades' unionists have tried to forbid women working in certain trades, under the cloak of a tender consideration for their welfare. The jealousy of female competition has nothing at all to do with it. Oh, no! Perish the thought! It is for the women's own good and the good of the children.

The resolution moved by Mr. W. J. Davis on behalf of the Amalgamated Brass Workers, at the Trades' Union Congress held in Ipswich last week, to exclude women from the metal polishing, turning, and screwing trades, would probably have been carried if women had not protested.

And many of the men would have plumed themselves on their benevolence, and have wondered why upon earth women wanted the vote when their interests were so well looked after. Far be it from me to impute motives of trade jealousy to all the men who are anxious to see legislative repression put into force against women without their consent. But just so long as they ask for legislation of that kind only, and do not clamour for equal pay for equal work, for equal political status for the sexes, and abolish their Trade Union restrictions against women, they must be content to have their motives suspected.

THE EDITOR.

### Foreshadowing the Future.

THE SIMPLE SOUL'S GUIDE TO KNOWLEDGE.

WHAT is this obstruction of the highway?

It is not an obstruction. It is a crowd of men. They are talking together.

Why are they so agitated and excited? Has one of them lost a sovereign?

Not so. They are demanding their rights.

Should they not then be arrested?

No. They are not only men. They are voters.

What right are they then demanding?

They say it is unfair. The women have been given "votes"!

But have not the men got votes too?

They have had them for many years. But the woman's Vote is better than theirs. It has behind it the highest degree of intelligence, knowledge, wit, and humour.

These men are jealous!

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

HYDE PARK.

A BRIGHT and breezy morning, a bright and breezy personality, and a bright and breezy speech—such seemed to be the general consensus of opinion amongst Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett's audience in Hyde Park last Sunday. Mrs. Hylton Dale was in the chair, and spoke most ably, particularly mentioning her work on the committee of an East-End crèche.

The meeting was already well started when I arrived at Marble Arch. The other orators round the gates seemed mostly to be gesticulating to thin air, but an enormous crowd surrounded the Freedom League flag,—a crowd which grew steadily bigger as Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett proceeded in her usual racy and humorous style, and drew close together at the end when a close fire of question and repartee began.

The audience was eminently respectable, top-hatted and Sunday frocked, but round after round of laughter and applause disturbed their accustomed high seriousness. When Suffragists have taught the Britisher to laugh not at them, but *with* them, half the battle is won.

M. N.

CARAVAN IN EAST ANGLIA.

WE have had some very good meetings at Lowestoft, and made several new members. The Rev. Tupper Carey very kindly lent us his Lecture Hall, and Miss Matters addressed a meeting "for women only," besides speaking on three other occasions. On Monday we go to Southwold, and from there to Aldeburgh.

VIOLET TILLARD (Organizer).

NORTH-EAST DISTRICT.

BISHOP AUCKLAND, Darlington, Harrogate, Stockton, and West Hartlepool have been visited. At each place we have made friends, and soon we shall have quite a crop of new branches in the North-East.

At Bishop Auckland, thanks to the efforts of Miss Elsie Hutchinson, we had a record meeting in the Market Place on Thursday night. Mrs. Coates Hansen, who has been turning out right valiantly to these open-air meetings, took the chair, and another victory for the cause was scored. There was obviously a strong body of opposition at the commencement, but this was overcome, and our former opponents joined the cheering crowd which conducted us to the station.

Mrs. Despard is in the district for a few days, and she is to meet members and friends at Middlebrough and West Hartlepool. At the latter place meetings have been arranged at the dock-yards and in Church Square. Miss Cook has been very busy arranging to attack the opposition and indifference of West Hartlepool.

ALICE SCHOFIELD (Organizer).

CARAVAN CAMPAIGN IN BERKSHIRE.

I TOOK over charge of caravan No. 1 at Thatcham on September 3rd from Miss Munro, whose speaking and personality have done much for the cause during the time she has been on tour. Miss Boileau arrived late on Saturday evening, and on Monday the caravan was taken to Reading, where Mrs. Stansfield, Miss Cobb, Mr. Powell, and other friends joined in the work. Meetings were held every evening from Friday the 3rd to Friday the 10th, several of them very large. I was the chief speaker, and Mrs. Stansfield, Miss Boileau, and Mr. Powell (a member of the Men's League) also spoke. Our visit is already bearing fruit in the increased activity of the forward Suffragists of Reading, who have arranged a meeting at Caversham Bridge for Tuesday, the 14th, and intend to announce it by chalking—a thing they have never yet done!

SARAH BENETT.

THE BIRMINGHAM CAMPAIGN.

SINCE the city of Joseph is to be the chief theatre of political events for the next week or two, the Women's Freedom League, as usual in the very forefront of the fray, has opened a strenuous campaign. Miss Irene Tillard, the first of the prisoners to be recently arrested in Downing Street, and Mrs. Sproson our well known indefatigable Midland speaker, having been working up a most successful series of open-air meetings.

This week Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, the freedom-loving daughter of a freedom-loving father, who, as all our readers know, has already served one term of imprisonment in Holloway, and is at present awaiting the result of the appeal, will go to Birmingham along with Miss Muriel Matters. A large public meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15th, at the Temperance Hall, when Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Matters, and Mr. Kenneth Richmond will be the speakers; Mrs. Ennis Richmond will be in the chair. Amidst furious blasts and counterblasts on the Budget trumpet the still small voice—not so very still and not so very small either!—of "Votes for Women" will constantly be heard making its appeal in the very heart of the transient tumult of ephemeral political parties.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF IRELAND AND THE ANTI-SUFFRAGIST.

I WENT to Llandrindod Wells to take the "Cure" and be quiet, but there was no quiet or soothing time for me, as I found the Pump House Hotel full of Anti-Suffragists! Fortunately the manageress of the hotel, Miss Duffield, is a Suffragist. I had arranged to hold a meeting later in the hotel, as a preliminary canter to a big meeting I got up outside; but hotel visitors about to leave came and begged me to speak to them at once, which I did in the garden. Instead of

only a few "parting guests," about sixty people came and listened with earnest attention. Directly I finished speaking, however, an Anti-Suffrage lady sat and violently abused the militants.

"I have been taken in to dinner by the Khedive," she said, "and by" (but I forget the string of foreign titles she hurled at me), "and they all denounced these women for outraging decency, and for bringing English women into contempt." She also stigmatized as false the statements of our prisoners, which she said were contradicted by the Home Secretary. As I had been invited three times to Holloway prison by the two ex-chaplains, &c., to address prisoners, and also know Dr. Mary Gordon, I was able to give chapter and verse for the prison reforms she is instituting, and which are the direct outcome of the Suffragettes' criticisms and complaints.

And then a pleasant thing happened. The Rev. Mr. Lewis and the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland (Lord O'Brien) arose and tendered me a charming vote of thanks. Tableau with the Antis! Later on the Hon. Georgia O'Brien, daughter of the Lord Chief Justice, and authoress of "The Heart of the Irish Peasant," declared she would join the Freedom League. I went up to the Anti lady after the meeting and gave her some literature, ignoring her previous rudeness.

I may state I found all the men in the hotel and outside it perfectly cordial and delightful to me about the cause, even if not for it, and the Welsh men, although hurt and offended by the treatment accorded to their idol the Chancellor of the Exchequer by some of the militants, bought papers and literature of me, and most of them approved of votes for women.

At the big meeting in the Pump House grounds I took the chair, and Miss Muriel Matters came and spoke brilliantly to about 3,000 people. (One man in the hotel thought "half a dozen people might come perhaps!") Miss Matters won all hearts. Llandrindod was upheaved for days, and, like Oliver Twist, "asked for more"—meetings. Even the town crier (with his bell) came to me at the hotel, as he was told I wanted him to "cry" another meeting. Lord O'Brien suggested I should make another speech the day before I left. But I thought it best to leave well alone. Eyes and minds had been opened to the righteousness of the cause, and to the fact that the personality of the terrible Suffragettes was more dynamic and potent (if less abusive) than that of their real friends the Antis.

MARIANNE HYLTON DALE.

The "At Homes."

THE weekly "At Homes" that proved such a success last winter will be resumed once again on Wednesday, October 5th. The Portman Rooms have been selected for this year, being more central than the Caxton Hall. Note also the change of day. We have decided on Wednesday, especially to meet the convenience of suburban members on account of the matinee trains. The speaker at the first "At Home" will be Mrs. Despard, and the hostesses Lady Treacher and Mrs. Ennis Richmond.

Central Branch Social Evening.

A social evening will be held on Thursday, September 30th, at 8 p.m., at Allen's Tea Rooms, Oxford Circus. Miss Margaret McMillan will give an address on 'Education and the Vote.' Members please bring friends. Non-members and men will be welcomed.

Shares in 'The Vote.'

EIGHT thousand people can have a share in our new paper *The Vote*—for Women's Freedom. It's a sound business concern—a Limited Liability Company—managed by a Board of Directors. The editors are Cicely Hamilton and Marion Holmes. If you believe in Women's Freedom it is your duty to support the paper.

Have you taken your Share yet?

If not make application at once. Shares are of the value of 5s. each (one quarter payable on allotment; one quarter in three months; the rest on call—probably never, if you do your part towards making the paper a success).

Are you prepared to do your Share?

By ordering *The Vote* yourself and persuading all your friends to order it? By volunteering to sell it at public meetings and in the streets?

Call in at the office (either at 1, Robert Street, or 148, Holborn Bars) and enlist in the Women's Freedom League corps of street sellers. Every one can give at least an hour a week. Don't say you haven't time. Of course you haven't. No Suffragette has time for anything! But every real Suffragette, and especially every Freedom Leaguer always gets things done!

Cash Received September 5th to 11th.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Amount previously acknowledged 3,507 6 8		Brought forward 3,563 6 8	
Allan, Miss J. (L.D.F.)	10 0 0	Meade-King, Miss (L.D.F.)	2 0 0
Anonymous (L.D.F.)	1 0 0	Meade-King, Esq. R. R. (L.D.F.)	3 0 0
Baker, Miss	0 1 0	Mothersole, Miss J. (L.D.F.)	1 1 0
Bache, Miss M. E. (L.D.F.)	5 0 0	O'Shea, The Misses (L.D.F.)	1 0 0
Benn, Esq. Harrison (L.D.F.)	10 0 0	Peartree, Miss I. M. (L.D.F.)	1 1 0
Boulb, Miss W. L. (L.D.F.)	0 10 0	Richmond, Mrs. and Miss Mor-	
Briant, Miss E. (L.D.F.)	1 0 0	gan-Browne (L.D.F.)	1 10 0
"Coalite," Manchester (L.D.F.)	20 0 0	Richmond, Esq., Kenneth	4 0 0
Dawson, Miss A.	0 1 0	Russell, Lady (L.D.F.)	1 1 0
Dock, Miss L. L. (L.D.F.)	2 0 0	Sanderson & Burr, Misses (L.D.F.)	5 0 0
Farrow, Miss M. A.	0 1 0	Shearer, Miss N. (L.D.F.)	0 1 0
"G. H." (L.D.F.)	0 2 6	"Sincere Wellwisher" (L.D.F.)	0 1 0
Gibburt, Miss D. D.	0 2 6	Snow, Esq., J. C. (L.D.F.)	0 10 0
Gordon, Esq., John (L.D.F.)	0 5 0	Stansfield, Mrs. P. (L.D.F.)	5 0 0
Hamill, Miss (L.D.F.)	0 2 6	Sympathiser (L.D.F.)	5 0 0
Harris, Miss	0 1 0	Thomson, Mrs. H.	10 0 0
Hunt, Miss M. C.	0 2 6	Thomson, Miss Anstruther (L.D.F.)	1 0 0
"Ignora" (L.D.F.)	0 1 0	Tollemache, Mrs. C. R. (L.D.F.)	3 0 0
Jenkinson, Miss F. L.	0 5 0	Wackrill, Miss (L.D.F.)	0 2 6
Le Lacheur, Miss K. (L.D.F.)	0 2 6	Warell, Esq., K. J. (L.D.F.)	1 1 0
Lobley, Mrs. Tylor	0 1 0	Wylie, Mrs. H. (L.D.F.)	1 1 0
Low, Miss B.	0 1 0	Wilks, Miss L. A. (L.D.F.)	0 3 0
MacCarthy, Mrs. (L.D.F.)	0 1 0	Winterne, Mrs. A. E. (L.D.F.)	1 2 0
		Collections	5 3 4
		Branch Fees	10 0 0
Carried forward	£3,563 6 8	Total	£3,607 4 6

Legal Defence Fund.

As the above marked list shows, the appeal for this Fund is being generously answered, and I should like to point out that the pounds are coming in, but not the shillings. All are needed, and the Hon. Treasurer asks those who cannot send large sums to do their best with small donations. I shall be glad to send "Penny" Collecting Cards to any one who would like to fill one for the Defence Fund.

The following letter, which has been sent to Mrs. Despard, shows the feeling aroused:—  
18, Gordon Road, Lower Edmonton,  
September 6th, 1909.

DEAR MADAM,—Pardon my intrusion "re right of women to petition"; and with the eminent Counsel Mr. T. Healy, K.C., M.P., being retained, I believe, for the appeal in the Law Courts, I sincerely hope that it will bring about the much-desired reform—viz., the rights of citizenship to women.

I, a poor unlearned man, fully realize that the women's movement is the one great lever that is going to bring about the democracy that is so dear to those who live for one another—that is to say, when men and women are politically equal.

Personally, I have taken great interest in this militant movement from its commencement, and have watched with admiration the noble and self-denying actions of yourself and other workers in the cause. Are you doing this only for the vote? I say most emphatically No!—there is something beyond, You have the welfare of women, children, aye, and men too at heart.

If memory serves me right, I heard you say at Caxton Hall "Blessed Trinity of Man, Woman, and Child."—Quite so—and it seems to me that nothing short of the united efforts of the men and women of the country will make this hypocritical Government grant this needed reform.

Now, of course, we all know that funds are needed for this appeal, and I want, if possible, to be of some assistance in that direction, as it will be money well spent, seeing that it is for the greatest of all causes—the helping and uplifting of humanity, and I think that is the best value we can get for money. After all, money is only a means of exchange.

Personally I cannot give much; but I will do something, and shall be pleased to sell any literature, take a collecting card, or help in any other way that you may think beneficial to the movement.

I am, Madam, yours in the cause,  
Mrs. Despard, HENRY E. JOUNING,  
President Women's Freedom League.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

September 16th to December 11th.

Picketing at the House of Commons, Thursday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 2.30; Friday, 12—5.

SEPT.			P.M.
Thurs. 16.	Greenock, Esplanade	Miss Olive Robertson	3.30 &
		Miss Marguerite Sidley	7
Fri. 17.	Paisley, Abbey Gates	Mrs. Beith, Mrs. Fagan	7.30
	Princes Head, Battersea	Miss Underwood	7.30
		Mrs. Duval	
	Mains Street, Glasgow	Miss Olive Robertson	3
		Miss Marguerite Sidley	
		Miss Marguerite Sidley	8
Sat. 18.	Kilmarnock	Mrs. Toyne	6
	Corner of Beresford Road and High Street, East Finchley		
	Manchester, "Oakholme,"	Mrs. Hiller	
	Wilbraham Road, Alexander Park, Garden Fête	Mrs. Nidd	
	Trafalgar Square, Men's League Demonstration	Mrs. Despard, Miss C.	3.15
		Corbett, B.A., Miss Tyson,	
		Mr. H. Jacobs, B.A., Mr.	
		L. Housman, Mr. I. M.	
		Mitchell, B.A., Mr. I.	
		Clayton, Mr. Josiah Old-	
		field, D.C.L.	
	Duncton Petworth	Mrs. de Fonblanque	4
		Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett	
		Miss E. Cummin	
	Queen's Park Gates, Victoria Road, Glasgow	Miss Olive Robertson	3.30
Sun. 19.	Clapham Common	Miss Marguerite Sidley	
		Miss Underwood	5.30
		Mrs. Sanderson	
	Hyde Park	Mrs. Nevinson	12
		Mrs. Borrman Wells	
		Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett	7.45
		Miss Madge Turner	
	Royal Exchange, Glasgow	Miss Olive Robertson	1
		Miss Marguerite Sidley	
	Wellington Street, Glasgow	Miss Marguerite Sidley	7
	Dennistoun	Miss Olive Robertson	7.30
		Miss Bessie Semple	
Tues. 21.	Edinburgh	Mrs. Fagan, Mrs. Beith	
	Edinburgh, Café Vegetaria, "At Home"	Mrs. I. Wood	4—6
	Govan	Miss Eunice Murray	1
		Miss Olive Robertson	
		Miss Marguerite Sidley	3
Wed. 22.	Paisley	Mrs. Duval	7.30
	Altenbury Gardens	Miss Underwood	
		Miss Law, Mr. Overy	7.30
	Thornton Heath Clock	Miss Muriel Matters	8
	Masonic Hall, West Regent Street, Glasgow	Miss Marguerite Sidley	
		Chair, D. M. Mason, Esq.	
Thurs. 23.	Dennistoun, Open-Air Meeting	Miss Muriel Scott, M.A.	7
		Miss Marguerite Sidley	
	Dennistoun, Indoor Meeting	Miss Muriel Matters	8
		Miss Muriel Scott, M.A.	
		Chair, Miss Eunice Murray	
Fri. 24.	Shettleston	Miss Olive Robertson	7.30
		Miss Marguerite Sidley	
	Hillhead Burgh Hall	Miss Muriel Matters	8
		Miss Muriel Scott, M.A.	
		Chair, Miss Anna Munro	
Sat. 25.	Glasgow Green Demonstration	Mrs. Borrman Wells	3.30
		Mrs. Parquharson Kennedy	
		Miss Muriel Matters	
		Miss Eunice Murray	
		Miss Anna Munro	
		Miss Marguerite Sidley	
Sun. 26.	Clapham Common	Mrs. Sproson	7.30
		Mr. Shipham	
Tues. 28.	Edinburgh, Café Vegetaria, "At Home"	Mrs. Borrman Wells	4—6
Wed. 29.	South Norwood Clock	Mr. Yaldwyn	7.30
Thur. 30.	Cedars Road, Lavendar Hill	Mrs. Sproson	5.30
Oct.		Miss Underwood	
Wed. 6.	First Weekly "At Home," Portman Rooms	Hostesses, Lady Treacher	3
		Mrs. Ennis Richmond	
		Speaker, Mrs. Despard	
		Chair, Mrs. How Martyn	

H. H. A.—Where are you roaming? Oh, stay and hear—'The Vote' is coming!

# 'The VOTE'

— IS COMING!

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Have You taken Your Share?

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**CHALK ABOUT IT!**

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