

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE).

Vol. III. No. 69.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

Telephone: HOLBORN 6191.

Published by W. SPEAIGHT & SONS, 98 & 99, Fetter Lane, E.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

United Kingdom ... 6/6 per annum, post free.

Foreign Countries ... 8/8 " " "

"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son.

WHAT WE THINK.

The Luck of the Ballot.

Luck has no sex prejudice, and the Irish Member who won first place in the ballot thinking he was balloting for seats in the ladies' peephole, gave way to Sir George Kemp who has now sponsored the first reading of the amended Conciliation Bill. Mr. Asquith is unlikely to refuse the Friday afternoon for the second reading. He has had everything his own way so far, and his Irish henchmen are refraining from making any demands on the time of the House or moving any amendments to the Address, so that the Parliamentary Bill may have a clear road before it. It is quite evident, then, that only superlative churlishness could deny this slight concession, the granting of which only ratifies the promise made by the Premier at the end of last Session. The anxiety of Lady Jersey and Lord Cromer, and the news that they are appealing to Mr. Asquith to refuse facilities, marks the fact that our hopes are near fulfilment. The oracle has spoken, and though Mr. Asquith is by way of being an oracle himself, he may feel superstitious about going against the decrees of the fateful "urn," particularly on a Friday. The luck of our Bill was received with many congratulations, even from the tepid in the House.

The voices of various Town Councils, hitherto silent, are adding themselves to the pioneer groups. Nottingham and Liverpool—the former with great enthusiasm—have within the past week demanded that facilities be given for a Bill on the lines of the Conciliation Bill; and it is not unlikely that the Mayor and Officers of Dublin Corporation may appear at the Bar of the House with a similar request. There is no doubt that the many grave civic bodies of hard-headed, hard-working citizens who have registered their will in this way will find a means of making Mr. Asquith's Government feel their displeasure should he take no notice. "The sluice-gates are open," and "the sound of the waters rushing" must be audible even to Mr. Asquith. We have thrown him a lifebelt. If he values his political health he will take it.

Insulting Women.

We are told that in Canada there are 30,000 farmers without wives, and the Canadian Pacific Railway have sent over a Commissioner to select 5,000 girls and women, nominally for domestic service, but really to

help to supply the deficiency. The Commissioner stated to a representative of an evening paper:—

All these girls who go out will go into domestic service in such parts of Canada where they will be in a position to meet nice young men, and further, every care will be taken in the selection of a girl on this side. She will have to give satisfactory references, not only such references that will satisfy us, but which will satisfy the National Council of Women in Canada. They will all undergo medical examination, and before being accepted they must enjoy good health.

A high moral tone will be attached to the whole scheme.

However, as the Commissioner omits to state whether the "nice young men" have gone through a similar medical and moral scrutiny, we may take it for granted that the high moral tone will only be exacted from the sex which has to bear the strain of a moral standard set for them by men—a moral standard which the makers are by no means anxious to adopt themselves. We consider the inquiries made of these intended emigrants, if they are restricted to women alone, as grossly insulting.

The Power of the Woman Voter.

The women voters of Washington have lately won a distinct victory for morality. They have obtained the recall of the Mayor of Seattle, Mr. H. C. Gill, who in order to curry favour with licence-holders and to pander to the worst passions of the male electorate, ordered the police to run Seattle on wide-open lines, with the result that the morals of that city were decidedly lax. The daily papers tell us that:

Mr. Gill was elected Mayor of Seattle a year ago. Eight months later the women in the State of Washington were enfranchised. They promptly began a campaign against Mr. Gill's policy. Washington has a law known as the "recall," whereby 10 per cent. of the voters in any community by petition can force a new election for any office at any time. The requisite petition was drawn up "recalling" Mr. Gill. He stood for re-election against Mr. G. W. Dilling, candidate of the Public Welfare League. Mr. Gill attacked the women during the campaign, alleging that they could not take an intelligent interest in municipal affairs, and that they adopted whatever attitude the clergymen told them. Mr. Gill's majority a year ago was 3,300. He has now been defeated by 6,000 votes. It has been uniformly stated by the Press that there was little doubt that, if there had been only male suffrage, he would have been re-elected.

Among the male opponents of Woman Suffrage are many men of the Gill stamp, who fear it because they know that its results will make the great cities less amusing for them, though safer for the women.

"Frauenspersonen" and their Rights.

Women in Austria are not allowed to join political associations, and the Austrian Women's Union has now petitioned the Chamber of Deputies in favour of such a reform of the Austrian law of Association which will permit them to join political societies. "Frauenspersonen" (a mode of description conveying, according to Austrian women, an untranslatable disparagement of the female sex), minors and foreigners are debarred by the existing law of Association, which dates from 1848. It is not unlikely that this law will be reformed, as the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional questions recently reported to the House in favour of its amendment.

Propertied women have for a considerable time possessed the Provincial Franchise in several parts of Austria, and amongst the arguments put forward in the petition of the Austrian Women's Union is that the right of political association is a desirable preparation for the political and communal franchise. We hope that the official use of the derogatory term, 'frauenspersonen,' as well as the disability under which the women of Austria labour, will be discontinued.

on them by their leaders, and it probably recognises that Census-resistance is a dangerously constitutional form of militancy which might easily "catch on."

Meanwhile the organisers are going ahead: large numbers of householders, occupiers of flats, upper parts, furnished and unfurnished lodgings, are sending in their names as resisters, and offering free house-room on Census-night to those who are not able themselves to take a more active part in the protest. The humours of the situation are developing. With some of these I shall deal in my next article. But under all the humour there is a grim determination that the blow shall be a really damaging one against a form of government which has long been an anachronism, and is now becoming a crime.

The Census in No-Man's Land will be taken early in March; and before your own Census comes on April 2, I hope to be able to report to you how, in the event, things actually fared with your sisters "over the way."

CAXTON HALL "AT HOME."

At the "At Home" held at Caxton Hall on Thursday, February 9, the subject of the proposed Census protest naturally took a foremost place in all the speeches. The speakers were Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Vulliamy, and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, and Mrs. Nevinson was in the chair.

Tear Up the Census Paper.

Mrs. Despard, in the course of her address, said we were naturally cheered by the good news that our Bill had the first place in the ballot. We must not, however, now be satisfied; we must not stop as the women did in 1884; while things required mending we must not sit with folded hands, and although we had got thus far, the time was not yet come when we could look at the fruit of our labours and be content. We had made up our minds to show that the business of the nation is the business of women as well as of men, and so long as women were excluded, so long as they were governed without their consent, they would obstruct public business. A very good opportunity of doing this would occur on April 2, when the Census papers had to be filled in. She herself intended to tear up her Census paper, and she hoped that every woman householder would do the same.

A Popular Protest.

Mrs. Vulliamy then gave a more detailed account of the Census scheme. The Census, she said, was taken for the convenience of the Government, in which women had no voice. The study of the population was certainly a question for women. They paid the expenses of the Census, but had no voice whatever in saying what questions should be asked. This was a protest in which everyone could take part, as it cost nothing. Mrs. Vulliamy made an earnest appeal for helpers for such work as canvassing, &c., and for donations to the protest fund.

Census Night.

Mrs. Nevinson also suggested various ways of passing the Census night, such as taking walking parties down Fleet-street and round the newspaper offices, also round the railway termini. She mentioned that it was no use doing as the ladies of a former generation did, when, according to *Punch*, they travelled all night in order to avoid telling their ages. Now arrangements were being made for taking the particulars from people when they arrived at their journey's end.

A Hopeful Position.

Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell said that the present position was a very hopeful one. It had been remarked to him after the General Election that Suffrage had had a great set-back. He denied that. In the new Parliament there were more supporters than ever of the enfranchisement of women, and the new Bill which was so shortly to be introduced was one to which fewer objectors than ever could be found. Mr. Asquith's attitude during the last Parliament was such that only language which

would not be suitable so near tea-time could be employed, but it seemed as if the fates were against him, for the first possible day on which the Bill could be introduced had fallen to us. After that we could only fall back on Mr. Asquith's pledge, given just before the Dissolution.

At the conclusion of the speeches many questions of detail with regard to the Census protest were asked, and a good many names were handed in of those willing to resist.

WOMEN AND TAX RESISTANCE.

At the meeting held by the Central London Branch at Chandos Hall on February 7, Mrs. Kineton Parkes, secretary to the Tax-Resistance Committee, said there was a large body of women who in their hearts really approved of militant methods, but could not join in them, who yet did want to do more than the constitutional Suffragists had done hitherto. She believed that tax-resistance was the one thing which would combine militant and constitutional women on one platform. The one great difficulty was that out of perhaps one hundred women who wanted to tax-resist, only about eighty could do it. Unearned income was taxed at its source. Inhabited house duty was perhaps the easiest to resist, but women who lived in flats had this paid by their landlords.

They looked at tax-resistance from the higher standpoint; they had conscientious principles against paying any taxes whatsoever while women were unrepresented.

Government Use of Taxes.

Were they—the tax-paying women of the country—doing right in having their money spent on things of which they did not approve? They need only take one instance—the South African War. That might or might not have been a just war, but not one woman in the country had been asked to register her opinion about that war, yet all the women paid for it, directly or indirectly. They did rather want to ask themselves what their money was used for. They paid for the salaries of Cabinet Ministers, and they would be asked in all probability, before very long, to pay Members of Parliament. Did they realise for one moment that their money was being used to pay sweated wages to other women? The Government were the very worst payers of wages to women.

They resisted only imperial taxes, not local rates. The latter they paid because they had the municipal vote, but Inhabited House Duty, Income-tax, Property tax, dog licences, carriage licences, and those for Armorial Bearings and Livered Servants, they resisted. The easiest to resist was Inhabited House Duty; the next easiest, earned income—actresses and doctors could do this. The Government had bluffed women about their taxes; women had paid far more than they ever need for many years through ignorance. One woman had written across her tax-paper: "You call me a lunatic, therefore you cannot expect me to be responsible; you call me a pauper, therefore how can you possibly expect me to pay?"

Married Women and Taxes.

Dealing with the position of married women, Mrs. Parkes said that there were two laws on the Statute-book of England which were absolutely at variance with one another—the Married Women's Property Act and the Income-tax Act of 1842. Married women were not liable to Income-tax. Supposing a wife was earning £100 a year. The law said that no woman was to pay Income-tax if she was married, but it was added to the husband's, and he had to pay, though incomes of £100 only were not taxable. They had a test case, and the Government had withdrawn their claim, proving that the woman had the rights of the case. They ought to combine in large numbers on this part of the question.

MISS MARTA CUNNINGHAM's singing of "The Awakening" at the King's Speech meeting—mention of which was crowded out last week—proved most inspiring.

THE IDEALS & FUTURE OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

By C. DESPARD. PART III.

I have in my two former articles on this subject endeavoured to bring before my fellow members and the readers of THE VOTE the ideals of the Women's Freedom League. I showed that though our Society is far too young for any one of us to be able to say that these ideals had been fulfilled, we could still, with confidence, claim that we had been true to them. It is, I think, impossible, looking back upon our history, to deny that of desire for progress. A vision of such good citizenship as will help us to build up the beautiful city of the future has existed, and has been a motive-power behind all our activities. This week my task is harder, for I am going to make a bold venture. Looking on into the future, I desire to attempt a forecast.

I am aware that, in the opinion of many people, forecasts are dangerous. I know also that definite forecasts are impossible. In the midst of the present bewildering chaos of cross-currents, who can say which will be strong enough to throw itself into the main stream? Yet forecasts are constantly made—"We look before and after; we pine for what is not."

It was said by one of the great ancients, "For lack of vision the people perish." But vision, in its ultimate significance, is just this—an attempted forecast.

I would set forward then: (1) The mission of the Women's Freedom League to the world; (2) The work it will attempt; (3) The tasks it will accomplish.

I will begin from the place "where now we stand." Woman, still unrecognised as the true partner, mate and equal with her brother, responsible as he is for the ordered life of the community. It has been said lately by one of our critics that we are crying out unreasonably for "legislation in a hurry." Of the Women's Freedom League that is not true. On the contrary, what we are continually deprecating is just this—legislation in a hurry; sometimes in a panic; oftener still in a muddle through want of understanding. But, realising as necessary to the well-being of the State legislation which will free the children and afford them larger opportunities for living than those they now possess—legislation which will enforce the right of women to equal pay for equal work, equal moral treatment before the law, equal inheritance and equal rights of parenthood with men—we are in a hurry to obtain the recognition by law of our citizenship, the preliminary of which is equal political representation with men.

And we claim that this urgency is reasonable. Even now, as the opening of a session which may be momentous in its issues, legislation is foreshadowed which, if carried through, will seriously affect our interests and those of our children.

As a first step, then, towards the independence we are out to reconquer, we behold, looking forward, this victory. That may come about soon. And next, the question arises, Does the winning of the Vote end our mission to the world? Are we to sit with folded hands and rapturous faces, saying: "All is over; we have deserved well of the world; we have achieved the purpose that brought us into being as a League; we may dissolve our Union and depart in peace?"

I think not. As I looked round at our late conference, which brought together representatives from all parts of Britain; as, with keen satisfaction, I noted the quality of the women who under the banner of the League have banded themselves together for the rehabilitation of womanhood, I could not think that such a disbandment was possible.

I will use a simple illustration: Would an architect, when the foundation of his building being laid, he had persuaded his fellow-workers to put up a fine scaffolding, be satisfied? Would he say: "My work and their work is done? The building will get itself together without us? We may rest?" We know he would not. The scaffolding is but one of the instruments through which his durable work is to be accomplished. After it is up

the serious part of the business begins. So with us and our citizenship. So, indeed, with all legislation. Laws are but instruments. If not properly administered they become dead letters, or worse.

It is on this I base my further forecast. In our agitation, with all its varied episodes; in the comradeship that has bound us together; in the misery we have beheld; in the hopes we have conceived and set forth, we have had an education.

I see the Vote won, and I see beyond it. I see our League settling itself, through the instruments it has obtained, to help in the great synthetical work of the opening century. Our mission, as women who believe in the future, is to construct. Over this dimly conscious, the woman-element has brooded through incalculable ages of the past. By the constructive power existing in it, humanity, in the form we see and know, has come to be. Upwards from rude forms of plastic matter this power has wrought. And now, conscious and alert; now, when reconstruction of society is demanded, it is here.

But again instruments are needed. My forecast is that in the Women's Freedom League one of these instruments is to be found. I see those who have been the most earnest students of social conditions—those who have felt most deeply the power of feminism and its part in the growing humanism of to-day refusing to loose the bands of comradeship that hold them together. They have worked gallantly over the scaffolding. The time they will feel has come when they must work on it.

So far I have spoken of our mission. I have other things to say. I have a more definite outline of work to place before you. But I am afraid, as both time and space fail, I must reserve this for another number.

In the meanwhile, however, I beg my fellow members to understand that the forecast is merely my own. Nothing, except the first object, is binding on any one. I may hope that my friends of the League will, in their corporate capacity, help in the great constructive work of the future. To-day, I can only call upon them, by their love, fellow-feeling, and devotion, to carry the first of the barriers that block our way.

THE CENSUS AND "THE VOTE."

Every member should determine to gain at least one new subscriber a week, and this is not difficult, especially now that we are having articles on the "Census Boycott." It is marvellous the sales which may be effected if one is always on the look-out. I was speaking the other day to a women's adult school, and was particularly struck with the intelligence and interest displayed by the women, most of whom were very hard-working, and some even sweated workers. Guessing how poor most were and the struggle they had, I felt I could hardly ask them to buy a paper, but to my delight, after the meeting, ever so many came up and brought out a penny as cheerfully as possible, and said they must have THE VOTE, and these are women whom our friend the "Antis" tell us do not think. I mention this in order to remind all speakers how important it is to have two or three dozen copies of THE VOTE at every meeting, and when possible to sell it themselves after their speech.

ETHEL FENNINGS, VOTE Sales Organiser.

THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD.,
9, Grafton Street, Bond Street, W.

At the request of a large number of members, it has been decided that candidates who apply before March 1 will be elected without entrance fee.

TAKE NOTE OF THIS OFFER!

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 148, Holborn Bars.
Secretary—Miss M. E. RIDLER.
Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc.,
Miss MARIE LAWSON, Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1911.

OUR NEW BILL AND SOME NEW PERILS.

It seems as if the stars in their courses are fighting for the Suffragettes. Out of a ballot of 358 names, what are practically the two first places were drawn by supporters of our cause. Mr. Philipps, a Nationalist, won the first place, but it appeared, by some error, he had entered his name for tickets for the ladies' gallery, and not for a Bill, and he withdrew in favour of Sir George Kemp, Liberal Member for North-West Manchester, a most fitting person to introduce our Bill, Manchester always having taken the lead in all things relating to the cause of women's progress.

The second place was won by another friend, Mr. Goulding, a Conservative, who also had intended to introduce our Bill, and this to us of the W.F.L. is a good omen of success. To women who have stood aside from all parties until such time as we can work with more power to our elbow, it is cheering to see that in these party-ridden days there are just and righteous men who can put aside party feeling, and unite in helping the helpless to attain a simple measure of human justice.

The Conciliation Committee, with Lord Lytton in the chair, met last week, and also the Liberal group in favour of our cause. Mr. Cameron Corbett was chosen chairman, and Mr. J. H. Whitehouse was again elected secretary. The group decided to support the Conciliation Bill in its new form, and asked Mr. Asquith not to take away the Private Members' Day in which the Bill would be introduced, and also urged that if the Bill passed its Second Reading special facilities should be given this Session.

Representations from such influential quarters must carry weight in the Cabinet. The Bill was presented on Thursday by Sir George Kemp, and the date for the Second Reading is fixed for May 5.

The new title of the Bill is: "A Bill to Confer the Parliamentary Franchise on Women," and the £10 qualification has been dropped as it was calculated that under this heading about 5 per cent. of women householders, renting a room or shop, might become plural voters, anathema maranatha to Liberals.

The Bill now reads:—

"Every woman possessed of a household qualification within the meaning of the Representation of the People Act, 1884, shall be entitled to vote for the county or borough in which the qualifying premises are situate.

"For the purpose of this Act a woman shall not be disqualified by marriage for being registered as a voter provided that husband and wife shall not be registered in the same Parliamentary borough or county division."

We have in the House a large body of supporters, according to Mr. Brailsford, 246 faithful, 120 less reliable, 42 Adult Suffragists, and 65 neutral or at present undecided. Only 193 declared opponents.

It is reasonable to count on a good majority for the Second Reading, but experience has taught us, that under Mr. Asquith's rule representative government is practically killed in England, the House is gagged and muzzled by "a secret and self-elected cabal of ministers," and in their hands they have the power of life and death of Suffrage Bills, and so far they have decreed death.

The prophecy that the House of Commons would take away the liberties of the people seems to be fulfilled under the so-called Liberal Government, and no one seems to mind, though by strange irony a protest has come from a Tory ex-Minister.

Speaking on the fact that all private members' days have been commandeered until after Easter, Mr. Balfour said: "The risks taken this year by private members were not ordinary risks; they were quite new. They were unexampled. The Government, for the first time, had made the amazing suggestion that they should take, for reasons which were utterly insufficient, a course which had never been taken before in the Parliamentary life-time of any member of the present House. . . . Certainly members have shown a long-suffering tolerance of a perfectly unexampled invasion of their rights as unofficial members, which fills me with regret when I think how much I have suffered under the very different treatment when I occupied the place now filled by the right hon. gentleman." Mr. Balfour added: "That private members thought certain rights were secured to them when the reforms were passed some years ago in the House, and that the right hon. gentleman in saying that unofficial members must take ordinary risks was adding a polite insult to a very substantial injury."

Suffragists should also ponder well Mr. Asquith's answer to the Trades Unionists' deputation from Sheffield, asking like honest and just men for the equal enfranchisement of men and women, so that the people might really express their will on the national questions of the day.

The Prime Minister, in his reply, showed how far he lagged behind these working men in enlightenment and fair-mindedness. It is as if some far-off voice of eighteenth century Whiggism answered these twentieth-century men:—

"The Government believed a man's right to vote depended upon his citizenship. A man who was a citizen ought to be entitled to vote, and he ought not to be entitled to more than one vote. As regarded Adult Suffrage he had not heard anything but the most casual allusion to one thorny aspect of the question, and that was the distinction of sex. Let them leave that for a moment. He did not know whether they were all agreed on the question, but one did not generally find a dozen gentlemen seated in a room in this country where there was not some difference of opinion, at any rate, upon that point. Let them leave that on one side.

"In regard to Male Suffrage, what he wanted to see, and it was a point to which the deputation might address themselves, was some workable system of registration by which the system of Adult Suffrage could be carried out without any inconvenience or trouble."

With regard to payment of members of the House of Commons and official election expenses, Mr. Asquith repeated that, what he had said in Parliament before the close of the last Session, was part of the programme of His Majesty's Government. He hoped they would be able to give effect in the course of the Session, which was now in progress, at any rate to that part of the reform which dealt with the payment of members.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

As we go to press we learn that the new arrangement (in force on April 1), by which ticket-of-leave espionage and its terrible disadvantages to ex-convicts will be abolished, does not apply to women ex-convicts. Once more the Home Secretary shows his hand. The man ex-convict has a vote. The moral is obvious.

PLEASE note that the "Hard-Up" Social was wrongly announced last week as taking place on March 24. Date and full particulars will appear in next week's VOTE. Would anyone like to emulate the example of Miss Taylor and another lady who gave £1 each towards expenses? Remember, we are "Hard-Up"!

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL, Postmaster-General, when receiving a deputation from the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, declared himself as pained at the suggestion that he had introduced the girl messengers to save one shilling a week. The difficulty was, he said, that there were not enough adult situations for boys when they grew up, and that the girls were more easily absorbed. We would like to ask Mr. Samuel if the reason of the latter was that the pay in the adult situations for girls was such that no man would accept it. We would also like to know how much shorter the hours of the girl messengers are than those the boys used to serve. It is only now that it is stated that they are shorter.



Debenham & Freebody
Wigmore Street,
(Cavendish Square) London, W.

Famous for over a Century
for Taste for Quality for Value

**THE NEW
'SHUBE' COAT**

(as sketch), in high-grade
reversible tweeds, made in
various combinations of
colour.

50/-

**TAILOR
SUITS**

to order, designed and
made on the premises by
skilled men tailors, in a
variety of shapes, from
fashionable materials.

6½ GNS.

BRANCH NOTES.

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

Crystal Palace and Anerley.—MISS JESSIE FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.

A most interesting debate was held at the Suffrage Offices, Anerley-road, last Saturday, arranged by the N.U.W.S.S., in which Miss Abadam (of the above Society), and Mrs. Stewart (of the A.S.L.) took part. Members of seven different Suffrage societies were present, some of whom spoke during the discussion that followed, Miss Ethel Fennings being one. When the vote was taken, there was an overwhelming majority for the Suffragists. THE VOTE was sold. Tickets (1s. each) for the whist drive on Wednesday, February 22, at 3.0 may be obtained from hon. secretary. Miss Ethel Fennings has been invited to take part in a debate arranged by the Anerley branch of the League of Young Liberals on Tuesday, February 21.

Hackney.—4, Clarence-road, Hackney, N.E.

The annual meeting of this branch was held on Saturday at the Suffrage Shop for the election of officers for the coming season and other business. Miss Morris was unanimously elected as organiser and Mrs. Catmur as treasurer. Mrs. Pierotti and Miss Kilgour were respectively elected for THE VOTE sales and general literature, and for the secretarial work Miss P. Le Croisette and Miss E. E. Busby. The general committee were also elected, and after these offices had been filled the meeting fell to suggestions and discussions on the advancement and strengthening of the branch. Many good suggestions were received, and the new committee and officers will shortly meet to decide which are the most practicable.

Needlework parties are to be held every Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m., and we should be pleased to hear from anyone who could help with room or contributions.

It has been decided to keep the shop open on April 2 for all those who intend to help to spoil the Census, and everything augurs well for the shop being full that night.

Members and friends are reminded of the Cake and Candy Sale, to be held at the above address on Saturday afternoon and evening, February 25, for which we hope to receive many contributions.—E. E. BUSBY.

West Hampstead.—MADAME VAN RAALTE, 23, Pandora-road, N.W.

On Wednesday, February 8, a members' meeting was held at above address. Six were present; Miss F. Dickeson took the chair. Arrangements were made to advertise, thoroughly, our King's Speech meeting on February 15.

We had a successful open-air meeting on Saturday afternoon

in Finchley-road. We were greatly obliged to Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett for speaking. We had a lantern parade in the evening, in which Mrs. Pring, the Misses Goldstein, Mrs. Hyde, Miss Dickeson and myself took part. At 9 p.m. we held an open-air meeting in West End-green, at which Miss Frances Dickeson took the chair, Mrs. Hyde and I spoke.

We intend having an umbrella parade on Tuesday at 3 p.m. Will volunteers kindly call at above address at 2.45 p.m. Tickets 6d. and 1s. for King's Speech meeting, on February 15, can be obtained from above address, also at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi.—JEANETTE VAN RAALTE.

Herne Hill and Norwood.—32, Geneva-road, Brixton, S.W.
A few of our most enthusiastic members have decided to form a debating circle in connection with our branch, which will enable us to obtain practice in speaking, and also afford an opportunity for the interchange of useful knowledge on some of the social questions in which we are especially interested.

Mrs. Langley has kindly consented to act as organising secretary, and each member will either take the chair or read a paper, or open a discussion on some interesting subject. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, February 7, at 32, Geneva-road. The social drawing-room meeting on Saturday, February 18, at 28, Carson-road, Dulwich, will be held from 3 to 5 p.m.—BARBARA SPENCER, Hon. Sec.

Stamford Hill.—Mrs. A. CUNNINGHAM, 114, Holmleigh-road.
At the "At Home" last Tuesday, Mrs. Francis, in a most interesting speech, explained the proposed boycotting of the Census in April next.

Two ladies are now engaged upon thinking out designs for branch banners. In order to obtain the most appropriate motto possible, Suffragists are invited to compete for a 5s. prize offered for the most original and suitable one.

The next evening "At Home" will be held at St. Leonards Hall, East Bank, Stamford Hill, on Tuesday, February 21, at 3 p.m. Mrs. Nevinson and Mr. Barron will kindly give addresses, and Mrs. Cope is coming to sing for us again. We shall be pleased to welcome all local members of the "Men's League for Women's Suffrage" and their friends. Smoking will be allowed, and tea and coffee provided.

On Friday evening, February 17, Miss Taylor will speak at Amhurst Park at 7.30 p.m., and Mrs. Griffiths, of 6, Fairholt-road, kindly says she will be delighted to entertain the branch and friends on Tuesday afternoon, March 7.

Central London Branch.—Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.

There was a very small gathering at Chandos Hall (21a, Maiden-lane) on February 7, to hear Mrs. Kineton Parkes on "Tax Resistance," and Mrs. Vulliamy, who kindly came as a substitute for Mrs. Sproson (who was unable to be present), and spoke to us about the King's Speech and the Census of 1911.

Mrs. Hyde took the chair, and the few who had the pleasure of hearing the speeches were much interested.

It is, however, a great pity that having taken the larger hall, and secured good speakers, the attendance should be so small, and we must all work very hard to make our next meeting, on February 28, in the same place, a great success.

We shall have a branch members' meeting at 7 p.m., and at the public meeting our speakers will be Lady Stout and Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, with Mrs. Cope in the chair and Mrs. de Visines as hostess. We also hope, on this occasion, to have the pleasure of hearing "The Awakening" sung by Miss Marta Cunningham. For our public meetings in March we shall return to the Bijou Theatre, and change the day to Wednesday, holding them on March 15 and 29.—E. G. T.

Mrs. Tanner, of Central Branch, held an "At Home" on Friday, February 10, at 32, Wynne-road, Brixton, which was well attended and very successful.

Miss Tite explained Census protest, and the audience, which comprised many women householders, showed much interest and appreciation. A lady present took away THE VOTE poster, and hopes to get it shown at the local I.L.P. hall.

Mrs. Tanner has been asked to speak at a Debating Society in the neighbourhood before the Census is taken. Miss Lucy Jenks sang "The Awakening" very sweetly. Fourteen copies of THE VOTE were sold.—K. S. TANNER.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.—Hon. Organiser: MISS MANNING, B.A., Harper-hill, Sale, Cheshire.

Chester.—E. WOODALL, 13, Abbey-square.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Miss Sidley to Chester for the first time, and after a long round of visiting we chatted pavements and held a meeting in the Market-square. Miss Landcastle, who with two other new and helpful members, came on very short notice, introduced the speaker, and afterwards, in a cheery, persuasive way, got a collection of 2s. 3d. where I had failed to get anything.

A man who had to leave early in the meeting took great trouble to give his penny first, and an old man, at the end of the meeting, begged to shake hands with Miss Sidley, saying that her speech had converted him. We sold two dozen VOTES.

A number of us have been practising our new song, "The Awakening," which we hope to have at our next indoor meeting Sale.—MISS GEILER, "Thornlea," Wardle-road.

Our speakers' classes began on Monday with an attendance of fifteen, and an interesting debate on "Co-operative House-keeping," opened by Mrs. Gothard, took place. On Monday, February 20, the subject will be "Tariff Reform or Free Trade: Which is the Best for the Home?" Miss Hines will

open for Tariff Reform and Mrs. Cross for Free Trade. The meeting will be held at Harper Hill, Sale, at 8 o'clock.

Miss Sidley has been visiting Manchester members this week, and has secured recruits for the Census protest.

An interesting meeting took place at the Clarion Café on Thursday last, when members of the branch attended to oppose Mr. Clayton, who opened the debate from the Anti-Suffragist standpoint.

Members are asked to remember the Jumble Sale in March, and to keep all old clothes and oddments for the secretary, who will call or send for them in a couple of weeks.

Eccles.—Miss KIPPS, 16, Fitzwarren-street, Seedley.

On Monday we had the pleasure of sending our secretary, Miss Heyes, to speak at a meeting of the Moorside Young Liberals. As a result the members passed a unanimous resolution calling upon Sir George Pollard, M.P., to join the Conciliation Committee.

On Thursday, February 9, the branch held a successful meeting at St. Stephen's Schoolroom, Leicester. Miss Sidley spoke on the King's Speech, and outlined the policy of the Women's Freedom League with regard to the forthcoming Census. Mrs. Manning spoke on the value to the nation of the assistance and co-operation of women in political affairs. The chair was occupied by Peter Lindley, Esq., J.P., chairman of the Swinton Council.

Urmston.—Miss M. HUDSON, "Oaklands," Flixton.

Members are asked to remember the meeting at 42, Flixton-road on Friday, February 17, when Mrs. O. M. Aldridge will speak on "The Work of Women's Trades Unions' Councils." I shall be glad to hear from any who are unable to attend this meeting.—M. E. MANNING.

Sheffield.—19, Uppertorpe.

On Tuesday evening, February 7, a King's Speech meeting was held in the Cutlers' Hall at eight o'clock. Miss Alison Neilans was the principal speaker, and Miss Barnett took the chair. In opening the meeting, Miss Barnett gave ten reasons why women should vote, and the careful way in which she explained these, coupled with the delightful personal reminiscences which she used as illustrations, put the audience in the right frame of mind to sympathise with Miss Neilan's proposal to boycott the Census. A good supply of literature was sold and a collection taken.—GERTRUDE CLARKE.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND BRANCHES.

Eastbourne.—Mrs. DILKS, 39, Milton-road, Our King's Speech meeting, held on February 8, was one of the most successful of many successful Suffrage meetings held in Eastbourne. We had a full hall, and a most sympathetic audience. Mrs. Francis (Brighton) was in the chair, and moved the resolution, which was carried with four dissentients. Mrs. Francis made a very able speech dealing more or less with the A B C of the movement for the benefit of the many people present who for the first time had come to a Suffrage meeting. Miss Margaret Stone, who possessed a very fine, powerful voice, sang our new song, "The Awakening," with great taste and feeling. Then followed our President, Mrs. Despard, who gave a most eloquent speech, explaining fully the Census protest, and showing how important our question is, and how we must strain every nerve in order that victory may be ours in the near future. We sold a good number of 1s. tickets, and also took a good collection. Our sale of literature (THE VOTE and the song) was also very fairly good. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Downs, Mrs. Reed, Miss Agnew, Miss Christie, Miss M. Dilks, and Miss Bart, who acted as stewards and literature sellers.

Portsmouth and Gosport.—64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.

The drawing-room meeting, held by kind invitation of Mrs. Studdy and Mrs. Hay Shaw (Mrs. Donald Shaw), on Thursday afternoon, February 9, was very successful and very enjoyable. Miss Munro made a delightful speech, and as Mrs. Donald Shaw's article appeared in that day's issue of THE VOTE a great many copies were sold.

We held our King's Speech meeting the same evening at the Co-operative Hall, Gosport. Miss Munro again delighted her audience with a fine speech, and enthusiasm ran high when the Census campaign was explained. Quite a lot of women, members and non-members, signed the papers, promising to give no information, and several new members were made.

The next members' meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23, at 7 p.m., at 6, Clarence View.

Our treasurer (Mrs. Tremain) wishes gratefully to acknowledge the following subscription to the Propaganda Fund: Mrs. Bremner, 10s.

THE VOTE is always on sale at 4, St. Paul's-road, Southsea.—S. WRETTON.

West Sussex.—Miss CUMMIN, Eastbourne Vicarage, Midhurst.

A King's Speech meeting was held on Tuesday last in the Assembly Rooms, Midhurst, when we were fortunate enough to have Miss Anna Munro as the principal speaker, and Miss M. E. Byland in the chair.

The audience, though not so large as we anticipated, was most interested throughout the proceedings, and appreciative.

I moved the resolution in a short speech, and then Miss Munro spoke with her usual eloquence on the need for pressure to be brought to bear upon the Government. She instanced tax resistance and the Census protest as two effective means of hampering the business of the Government, and drew attention to the danger of the attitude of the Liberal Government towards the Conciliation Bill becoming a precedent.

The resolution was carried without a dissentient; questions

on the Census boycott were asked and satisfactorily answered by Miss Munro, and a good collection taken.—ANNIE N. ROFF.

EAST ANGLIA.—Hon. Organiser: MISS ANDREWS, 160, Norwich-road, Ipswich.

Ipswich.—Miss ANDREWS, 160, Norwich-road. Last Monday evening we held a King's Speech meeting at 13, Friars-street. A good audience had assembled to hear whether it was to be peace or war. Mrs. Hossack presided. Miss Andrews spoke on the political situation, and explained fully the plan of boycotting the Census. Mrs. Stansfield urged all present to come forward and take their share of the work.

On Thursday evening Miss Andrews gave a report of the Annual Conference.

Bury St. Edmunds.—

Mrs. Tippett has been doing some good work in Bury. A small meeting was held last Tuesday, at which two friends joined the League. A public meeting is being arranged for the beginning of March.—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

WALES.—Hon. Organiser, Mrs. CLEEVE, Chez-nous, Sketty.

Swansea.

The programme of our activities for the next few weeks is extensive and varied.

On Friday, in the Albert Hall, we hold our King's Speech meeting and Census protest. We hope to have a very large and enthusiastic audience.

At Chez Nous, Sketty, on Monday evening, Mrs. Cleeve is arranging a large Whist Drive in aid of the branch funds. Everyone is urged to attend and bring friends.

"How the Vote was Won" is to be performed by local members at the annual meeting of the branch in March. In March, also, a jumble sale will be held, towards which contributions are urgently requested.

Aberdare.

A large audience assembled in the Memorial Hall on Monday evening under the auspices of the League, when a debate on "Will Women's Suffrage Improve the Position of Women?" between Miss Gwladys Evans, representing the affirmative, and Mr. D. W. Evans the negative. Miss M. A. Edwards, B.A., presided.

However, in the discussion which followed, in which Miss Jenny Phillips, B.A., the energetic secretary of the Aberdare Branch, Mrs. Davies, member of the Education Committee, and others took part; and also in the division at the close the Aberdare people are enthusiastically convinced of the need of Votes for Women.

On February 22 Miss Anna Munro will be speaking here on the Census protest and King's Speech meeting.

Balham.

On Friday last, at the Lecture Hall Assembly Rooms, was held a most successful meeting arranged by Mrs. Every. A crowded hall listened with interest and attention to Mrs. Despard's splendid address. Mr. S. G. Warner made a good chairman, and Miss Ethel Fennings appeared in a practical speech for THE VOTE, five dozen copies of which were sold before and after the meeting. All who helped are to be congratulated on the delightful evening, and it is hoped that it will lead to a branch of the W.F.L. being formed.

A most enthusiastic King's Speech meeting was held at Crosby, Waterloo, at which Miss Sidley detailed the Anti-Census scheme.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

Glasgow: Suffrage Centre, 502, SAUCHIEHALL STREET.
Suffrage Centre Manageress: MISS R. McARTHUR.

Hon. Secretary: MISS B. S. SEAPLE.

Hon. Treasurer: MISS JANET L. BUNTEN.

Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas-Edinburgh.

Hon. Secretary—Miss A. B. JACK, 21, Buccleuch-place.

Hon. Treasurer—Miss M. A. WOOD, 67, Great King-street.

Hon. Shop Secretary—Mrs. THOMSON, 39, Rosslyn-crescent.

At both of last week's meetings the King's Speech was taken as the basis of the address. Miss Frances Parker (Cantab.) gave a delightful speech at the Tuesday "At Home," dealing mainly with the tendencies of present-day politics and the dangers involved therein. On Wednesday Miss Alison Neilans discussed the position of the W.F.L. in view of the very important points omitted from the King's Speech. She clearly showed the logical sequence of the protests of the League, past and, if necessary, future. The Census Boycott was fully explained, many questions being asked, and it is hoped that the branch will take up this idea very heartily.

The next imperative duty of our members is to make the public meeting on Friday, February 24, a success. Mrs. Israel Zangwill and Mr. Charles E. Price, M.P., are the chief speakers. In view of Mr. Asquith's latest pronouncement, it is very important that his supporters in Central Edinburgh should hear their representative's views on the subject. Mr. Price has all along been one of our loyal supporters. Tickets, 3d., 6d., and 1s., are on sale at the shop, and those who have not yet got a supply are requested to call for them. Volunteers are wanted to canvass, especially in Mr. Price's constituency.

Please note that Miss Jacob's next lantern lecture will be given at the evening "At Home," March 1; on February 22 Miss Jack will give her report of the Conference.—HELEN McLACHLAN.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

Census Protest.

The response which is being made to our call for Census resisters is most enthusiastic, and already we have a long list of occupiers who will refuse all information, and who will open their houses to those who can only evade the Census by absenting themselves from home. So many letters have been received that it is impossible to do more than quote from a few, who write as follows:—

Lady Stout—

Please send me a packet of "No Census" leaflets for distribution at meetings where I am speaking. Think it is a splendid idea and very constitutional!

Mrs. Hicks—

We are very ready indeed to "resist the Census," and shall be only too willing to follow your lead in the matter.

Mrs. Sargent Florence—

I am most heartily in sympathy with the proposed action re Census.

Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson—

Yes, certainly I will add my name to the revolt against the Census.

Miss Dawson—

I think it will be magnificent, if only women will combine and boycott it in their thousands.

The Census meetings which have been held this week have all been successful. Mrs. Despard at Eastbourne, Miss Andrews at Ipswich, Miss Sidley at Liverpool and Manchester, Miss Munro at Midhurst and Portsmouth, Miss Neilans at Sheffield, Edinburgh, Dunfermline and Dundee, and others, send in most encouraging reports and promises of resisters. Anyone willing to arrange for a Census meeting should write to me without delay.

It will be very helpful if in writing to volunteer for this protest you would mention (1) whether you are an occupier, and willing to undergo imprisonment rather than pay the fine; (2) whether you would prefer to let your house for the week-end to someone who is willing to run these risks; (3) whether you wish to spend the night in the house of an occupier and so evade the Census without running any risks.

At the "At Homes" at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Thursdays, February 16 and 23, I shall be very pleased to meet anyone to discuss "special cases."

It has been suggested that in view of the rosy outlook for our Bill the Census Protest should be dropped, but it would be unwise to do this unless Mr. Asquith definitely promises facilities for this Session. Further, it will be an opportunity—an opportunity we only get once in ten years—for supplying the Prime Minister with proof that there is a widespread demand on the part of women for the suffrage. There are about a million women householders, and each one has this exceptional opportunity of sending a message to Mr. Asquith.

The Conciliation Bill in Parliament.

Great good luck attended our friends in the ballot. Sir George Kemp, the Liberal Member for N.W. Manchester, won first place, and on February 9 introduced the Conciliation Bill in its revised form. The title has been altered so as to admit of amendment, and the £10 qualification is omitted. The prospects are excellent, and every Suffragist has plenty of work to do between now and May 5, when the Bill is down for second reading, in order to secure a record majority. The bigger the majority the greater the confidence with which the Conciliation Committee can expect the Government to grant facilities for its later stages. *The Manchester Guardian* says:—

There ought to be time to deal fully and finally with the Suffrage question. The Bill has already, in its earlier form, received a full discussion and passed its second reading. Mr. Asquith is under a pledge to give it time for a second reading and also for its later stages during the lifetime of the present Parliament. It would be a great thing if the passing of this measure of justice and democratic reform were to be initiated by the Member for North-West Manchester.

We have already made plans for special campaigns in some constituencies where it is necessary to convince the Member that he will be acting with the support of

all lovers of justice and fair play in his constituency by doing his part to secure the enfranchisement of women this Session. This work, to be done effectively, will require several organisers giving their whole time, many voluntary helpers, and much money. But with this great hope of speedy success to inspire us, service and money will be given ungrudgingly, and I shall be glad to hear from every member as soon as possible what share she can take in the work.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

THE CANVASS OF MUNICIPAL WOMEN VOTERS IN DUNDEE.

In connection with this canvass the following letter was sent to the women voters:—

Dundee, January 27, 1911.

Dear Madam,—A proposal was laid last July before the House of Commons to give the Parliamentary vote to those women who already possess the municipal vote. Various statements were made in the course of the debate, such as (1) married women would be largely left out; (2) the great majority would be of a dependent class. No actual figures and facts were produced for any Scottish constituency.

It is desirable to get at the real truth of the case as far as Dundee is concerned.

We are asking, therefore, all those women in Dundee who are already on the Municipal Register to very kindly fill up and post the enclosed card (not later than Monday, January 30). We shall be grateful if you will help us by doing so.

You will note that your name does not occur on the card at all, and that no personal publicity attaches to the enquiry.

While we have consented to act as an independent committee at the request of the Suffrage societies, our only object is to obtain accurate information. There is no party purpose in view.

The letter is signed by:—

David Duncan, Esq. (a parish councillor).

Rev. Alfred Gardner (a Congregational minister).

Rev. C. M. Grant, D.D.

William Longair, Esq. (ex-Lord Provost).

Leslie Ower, Esq.

Baillie A. W. Paton.

James Petrie, Esq.

Professor A. M. Stalker, M.D.

Robert Stirton, Esq. (President, Trades' Council).

Percy Sturrock, Esq.

Miss M. L. Walker (a parish councillor).

The replies are coming in well. Dundee is divided into nine wards, and the Women's Freedom League is responsible for Wards III., IV. and VII., with 483, 870, and 702 women voters in each. Replies have already been received: 140 for Ward III., 317 for IV., and 238 for VII. The canvassers are getting on well, and in very few cases has information been refused. Accurate information for other typical places would be most useful to our friends in the House, and there is still time before May 5 to carry out such a valuable piece of work. E. H. M.

VOTES FOR WOMEN—This Session.

DEMONSTRATION

(Under auspices of Men's League for Women's Suffrage) at

Queen's Hall, LANGHAM PLACE

(Sole Lessees: Messrs. Chappell & Co., Ltd.)

On MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, at 8 p.m. Doors open 7.30.

Chairman - - H. W. NEVINSON.

Speakers: THE RIGHT HON.

EARL OF SELBORNE, C.C.M.G.,

GEORGE LANSBURY, M.P.,

Rev. J. IVORY CRIPPS, and others.

Mdme. MARIE BREMA (Actress's Franchise League) will sing.

TICKETS (Numbered and Reserved), 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s.: (Unreserved) 6d.; to be obtained at the offices of the MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 159, St. Stephen's House, Westminster, S.W.; and from the WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., and all Suffrage Societies.

THE NEW BILL AND THE BALLOT.

The Liberal Suffrage Group.

The Liberal Members in favour of Women's Suffrage held a meeting at the House this afternoon. They had to elect a new chairman, Sir Charles M'Laren, who was chairman in the last Parliament, not being a Member of the House now. The choice fell on Mr. Cameron Corbett, and Mr. J. H. Whitehouse was elected secretary. The meeting, which was a very full one, considered the Conciliation Bill in its new form, and decided to make representations to the Prime Minister to the effect, first, that the group supported the Bill now that its title had been so altered as to admit of amendments being moved in Committee; secondly, that the Members concerned requested the Prime Minister not to take away the private Members' day on which the Bill would be introduced; and, thirdly, that the Members also requested him if the Bill passed its second reading to give it special facilities this Session.

The Conciliation Committee.

Earlier in the afternoon the Conciliation Committee had held a meeting. The new title of their Bill is "A Bill to confer the Parliamentary Franchise on Women," and the two clauses, now that the £10 qualification has been dropped, read thus:—

(1) Every woman possessed of a household qualification within the meaning of the Representation of the People Act (1884) shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and when registered to vote for the county or borough in which the qualifying premises are situate; (2) for the purposes of this Act a woman shall not be disqualified by marriage for being registered as a voter, provided that a husband and wife shall not both be registered as voters in the same Parliamentary borough or county division.—*Manchester Guardian*, February 9.

Last year the Bill provided that:

1. Every woman possessed of a household qualification, or of a £10 occupation qualification, within the meaning of the Representation of the People Act, 1884, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and when registered to vote for the county or borough in which the qualifying premises are situate.

2. For the purposes of this Act, a woman shall not be disqualified by marriage from being registered as a voter, provided that a husband and wife shall not both be registered as voters in the same Parliamentary borough or county division.

The Reply.

Mr. Asquith has sent the following reply to Mr. J. H. Whitehouse's letter communicating the views of the meeting of Liberal Members in favour of Woman Suffrage:—

"House of Commons, Feb. 9, 1911.

"Dear Mr. Whitehouse,—I have received your letter and shall acquaint my colleagues with the terms of the resolution which you have conveyed to me.—Yours very faithfully, "H. H. ASQUITH."

As the result of yesterday's ballot for priority in introducing Bills in the House of Commons, the first place has been secured for the Women's Suffrage Bill, promoted by the Conciliation Committee. The Bill will be introduced by Sir George Kemp. Mr. Goulding, who came next to Sir George Kemp in the ballot, had intended to present this Bill, and it may be noted that while Sir George is a Liberal, Mr. Goulding is a Conservative. The Bills must be presented to-day.—*Manchester Guardian*, February 9.

In a leader in the same issue it is stated that this luck in the ballot gives the Bill the best chance it could have other than the direct backing of the Treasury bench.

The Bill is sure of being introduced, and may get a second reading, though it is doubtful if it will get into Committee.—*Lancashire Daily Post*.

The Women's Suffrage Bill which Sir George Kemp presented last night to the House of Commons, the second reading of which is now fixed for May 5, is backed by men of all parties.—*Daily News*, February 10.

Mr. Keir Hardie, speaking at a mass meeting at

Saltire on Sunday, spoke at length on Woman's Suffrage. Last Session he said the Prime Minister gave a very definite pledge that time would be given during this Parliament for the discussion of all stages of a Bill for the enfranchisement of women. By a rare stroke of luck the promoters of the Bill had obtained first place for it among the private Members' measures. That fact would make it easy for the Government to redeem their pledge this Session.

Lord Cromer and Lady Jersey have written to Mr. Asquith declaring that it is inexpedient that special facilities should be granted to a Women Suffrage Bill, and asking him if his Government "could see its way, with the co-operation of the Opposition, to giving the country an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon this subject as a specific and distinct issue."

Anxious to carry out the will of the people, Mr. Asquith has taken away from the representatives of the people all the time that is theirs—they are entitled in the ordinary way to portions of Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and the whole of Fridays—up to Easter. He declines to promise not to take away even the meagre couple of Fridays that remain to private Members after Easter. If he does not take them away Sir George Kemp will bring on his "conciliation" Woman Suffrage Bill in April or May for what is called "second reading." It may pass second reading, or it may be killed at once. But the result will be the same.—*Daily Express*.

OUR SHOPPING GUIDE.

Crème Peltzer.

As will be seen from the advertisement on our cover, the proprietors of this dainty preparation are giving a share of the profits made from sales to our members to the funds of the W.F.L. It can be purchased direct from the sole agents at 60, Chancery-lane, or through the usual chemists and perfumers. It is a pleasant cream to use, as it is non-greasy and leaves no trace behind. It has the property of whitening the skin of the hands and makes them soft and velvety, and will be found useful for the face as a preventative to the ill results of sharp winds and frosts.

"Votes for Women" Electric Pin.

As an amusing method of propaganda and assertion of the faith that is in us, Mrs. Tillotson's excellent device is "one of the best." The "pin," with a broad head like a hatpin, can be fixed on to the coat and the battery kept in the pocket; then, when one of the unregenerate pass, the button can be pressed and "Votes for Women" is shown lit up. The pin, complete with battery, can be had for 2s., post free, from Mrs. Tillotson, 78, High-street, Harlesden, London.

The Ideal Food Reform House.

The "Gardenia" is the latest of the Food Reform restaurants, and as it behoves the "new" it has to beat the best if it wishes to live in these days of strenuous competition. But the directors have no fear of meeting the best; they have fine, spacious up-to-date premises that give elbow-room and breathing space—prime necessities to the enjoyment of a meal.

The managing director has had over twelve years' practical experience in Food Reform catering and has made a special study of "Food Values," and he put this experience to practical use in arranging all the menus so that the novice can be sure of getting a properly balanced meal without having to make a study of dietetics. The cooking is in the hands of one of London's leading Food Reform chefs and the most fastidious will get food that pleases both the eye and the palate if they go to "Gardenia."

Comfortable Hosiery.

We would call the attention of readers of THE VOTE to a line in ladies' hose which is being advertised on the inside back cover by the Bon Marché, Sheffield. We have had independent confirmation of the claim made by the vendors for these stockings and can recommend them with every confidence as being not only very comfortable, but very durable. They are all wool with the exception of the outer surface of the feet, which part is plated with Egyptian cotton—a material calculated to stand the friction of the boot much better than wool. The inner surface, however, is all wool, thus ensuring comfort to the wearer. The Bon Marché hold a large and varied stock of hosiery, and those of our readers requiring this class of goods should not forget to send to Sheffield for them.

THE FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE holds a mass meeting at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, March 1, at 8 p.m.

THE SEX WAR IN LANGUAGE.

It must come with something of a shock to an earnest woman, battling for the Vote as the first step towards the social emancipation of English womanhood and her open-sesame to every field of human effort and desire, to find that not only are the King's Ministers hostile, but even the King's English takes sides against her, and that the very language with which she pleads her cause presents women with a real grievance.

Language anomalies we are accustomed to in English, but we rather plume ourselves on one fact about the English tongue—that it will have nothing to do with the absurd fancies of the foreigner, who sees feminine qualities in a chair and masculine in a stool, and whose books are of one sex but their pages of another. We say, with our practical English common-sense, that these things are neutral as to gender. A stranger might well be excused, therefore, for presuming that a people who can go so far in this direction as cheerfully to endure the frequent inconvenience arising from a lack of sex indication in such words as "cousin," "friend," and "baby," would rigidly taboo all such distinctions where differentiation was not a *sine qua non* of the idea to be conveyed by a word, as in "fatherhood" and "motherhood" when one side only of parentage is in question.

To a certain extent he would find his surmise correct. "Saint" and "sinner," "sovereign" and "slave," "scholar" and "dunce," "plaintiff" and "defendant" are common to both man and woman. But he would not be long in discovering a feature of our nomenclature which is not very eloquent of English chivalry—that this dual use of the same word applies, with very few exceptions, only to such terms as represent the undesirable or the inferior things in life, and that the discrimination between the sexes in all that is worth having or being is so unfairly partisan as almost to give the impression that the distribution of our English affixes is the outcome of a misogynist's spleen.

For a woman, equally with a man, may be an imbecile, a convict, a liar, a thief, or a fool, without any terminological inexactitude. But when we come to the other side of the shield, she may not be a hero, a benefactor, an administrator, a prophet or a poet, because these things are masculine prerogatives, and the courage and ability of women must be otherwise expressed. We do not speak of a servantess, a drunkardess, an incendiary, or a pauperine; these attributes are not worth claiming a pre-emption for. But everything denoting prominence or superiority must carefully distinguish between the real thing and its mere imitation. "Master" must not mean "mistress," nor "manager" include "manageress." There is a world of difference between "governor" and "governess," and between "adventurer" and "adventuress." One would think that heroism, like cowardice, would be the same in essence whether displayed by a woman or a man; but while this is tacitly admitted in the case of the vice, with the virtue it is otherwise. Cortez and Pizarro may be heroes; Joan of Arc is but a heroine. If a woman conducts a paper, we call her an editress; if she writes a book she is dubbed "authoress," her best work thus receiving only that "comparative respect which means an absolute scorn." And, lastly, you may, if you feel so disposed, speak of a woman as a devil—one of Shakespeare's characters does so—but you cannot under any circumstances speak of her as a god. Only men can be gods. So that, to sum up, the shame and the dishonour of Adam may be shared by Eve, but in his honour and glory he must stand alone.

Now language is the vehicle of thought, and names in particular are a factor so powerful in stamping impressions on the mind that, to take an instance, where a meeting is presided over by a woman, to call her "chairman" does more to open people's minds to the absurdities of sex distinctions in such matters than ten years of academic discussion could. It is, therefore, the

more regrettable that so many women, even amongst those who are foremost in the demand for equality, should fail to realise what a hindrance these subtle distinctions often prove to a right appreciation of the whole subject of women's rights and women's sphere, and that, instead of resolutely refusing, even at the charge of eccentricity, to make use of the disparaging sex-affixes, they have gone out of their way to adopt as their cognomen the word "suffragette" in preference to the more dignified and equal "suffragist."

Nevertheless, the march of progress is proving too strong for these anomalies. As will have been noticed, in all the preceding examples the root word is masculine and the addition denotes the feminine. So far as the writer can find, there is but one word in our language in which the opposite is the case—where the root is feminine, and the affix makes it masculine. That word is "widow," and it is in itself an epitome of the history of the sex struggle in the ages. "Widow" is a very old word, but "widower" is comparatively modern; it does not appear once in the Bible. The inversion of the general rule in the case of this word clearly shows that the idea of bereavement attached originally only to the status of the woman. A woman who had lost her protector, her "house-band," was widowed indeed; life was no longer worth living, and the best thing that remained for her was to be burnt on the funeral pyre of her lord. But the man who had lost his woman was no more bereaved than if he had lost his horse, his dog, or his best axe—till the thoughts of women "widened with the process of the suns," and made him take a place that is slowly approaching equality. So, likewise, with the other words. They represent, on the other hand, qualities which were at first deemed to be peculiar to men, the feminine termination being grudgingly added as women gradually forced upon society the recognition of their power to do or to be. But they are all of them words which have come down to us from a past generation—a generation which implicitly believed in the subjection of women, and resented her strivings after equality; a generation which paid a flattering lip-service to its women, but more than half despised them in its heart. The generations before the revolt knew no such petty distinctions. In the seventeenth century romance "Parthenissa," by the Earl of Orrery, the hero says of the fair Parthenissa that "she was the only heir of the generous Miraxtorses." We should probably say she was his heiress—as though it would make any difference to the heritage!


But the twentieth century has struck another note. Language is not only the vehicle of thought, it is also its faithful mirror, and the evolution of women's independence and equality is reflected in our current speech as one of the signs of the times. No longer is a word mangled or a fresh one coined to tell us that women have invaded one more sphere of masculine privilege. Our fathers spoke of horsemen and horsewomen; with us all who ride the air are aviators, and the bicycle carries a cyclist, whatever the shape of its frame. A clerk is a clerk, though wearing a skirt, and the woman who "pokes her nose" into the mill will have "H.M. Inspector" on her card, not "Inspectress." The extension of the municipal franchise to women made them citizens and voters equal to men in name as in voting power. It still remains to be seen how much longer women will suffer themselves to live under the disability of having to put "Mrs." or "Miss" before their names so that the world in general may know whether they are some man's property or still on sale, while men are always "Mr." It may be that we shall make a now meaningless term do double duty, and address an envelope to a lady as "Jane Smith, Esq." At any rate, it would not be more startling than some things we have done. When a woman takes her first degree at a University she does not become a *Spinster* of Arts or Science, but "Bachelor," and although the principal of a girls' school may not

yet be called the headmaster, she may still be a Master of Arts. Several prominent women have lately been made *freemen* of their boroughs; and, while the wife of every Mayor is the Mayoress, Mrs. Lees, of Oldham, is the Mayor. J. BEANLAND.

** In Mr. Beanland's amusing article we note one slight inaccuracy. The woman who guides the fortunes of a paper or magazine of any standing is, almost invariably, recognised as 'editor' and paid as such.— [Editor, THE VOTE.]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.

- 
- Thurs., Feb. 16.**—"At Home," Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Speeches, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Thomson Price. Mrs. How Martyn.
- Fri., Feb. 17.**—Open-air meeting at Amhurst Park. *Speaker*: Miss Taylor, 7.30 p.m.
- Sun., Feb. 19.**—1, Robert-street, 4 p.m. Members' meeting. Mrs. Despard.
- Tues., Feb. 21.**—8 p.m., Queen's Rooms, Anerley. League of Young Liberals. Miss Ethel Fennings.
- Tues., Feb. 21.**—Stamford Hill Branch "At Home" at St. Leonard's Hall, East Bank, 7.30 p.m. *Speakers*: Mrs. Nevinson and Mr. Barron.
- Thur., Feb. 23.**—"At Home," Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Speeches 3.30 p.m. Miss Decima Moore and Miss Annie Smith.
- Fri., Feb. 24.**—1, Robert-street, 11 a.m., National Executive Committee.
- Sat., Feb. 25.**—1, Robert-street, 11 a.m., National Executive Committee.
- Sun., Feb. 26.**—1, Robert-street. Members' meeting, 4 p.m. Mrs. Vulliamy.
- Tues., Feb. 28.**—Parkinson Hall, Hornsey, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Vulliamy. 8 p.m., Chandos Hall, 21A, Maiden-lane, Bedford-street, Strand, a public meeting organised by the Central London Branch. *Speakers*: Lady Stout and Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett. *Chair*: Mrs. Cope. *Hostess*: Mrs. de Vismes. "The Awakening" will be sung by Miss Marta Cunningham. 7 p.m., at same place, Central London Branch members' meeting.
- Tues., Mar. 7.**—Stamford Hill Branch "At Home" at 6, Fairholt-road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Griffiths, 3.30 p.m.

WELLINGBOROUGH. PROVINCES.

Mon., Feb. 20.—8 p.m., Crown Hotel. Mrs. Despard, Miss Sidley.

HARROGATE.

Tues., Feb. 21.—8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Miss Neilans.

Wed., Feb. 22.—3.30. Mrs. Despard.

GLASGOW.

SCOTLAND.

Tues., Feb. 21.—Baillieston Literary Society. Miss Caroline Reid.

Wed., Feb. 22.—Thornlibank. Adult Suffrage debate. Miss Bessie Semple.

EDINBURGH.

Tues., Feb. 21.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. "At Home," 4 p.m. Miss A. B. Jack. "The Conference."

Wed., Feb. 22.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. Branch meeting, 8 p.m. Report of Conference delegate, Miss A. B. Jack.

Fri., Feb. 24.—Oddfellows' Hall, Forrest-road, public meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers*: Mrs. Israel Zangwill, Charles E. Price, Esq., M.P. for Central Edinburgh. Tickets, 3d., 6d. and 1s., at Suffrage Shop.

WALES.

Fri., Feb. 17.—Swansea. King's Speech meeting, 8 p.m. *Speaker*: Miss Anna Munro. *Chair*: Mrs. Cleaves.

Mon., Feb. 20.—Swansea. Chez-nous, Sketty, 7.30 p.m. Whist Drive. Tickets (including light refreshments), 2s.

Tues., Feb. 21.—Swansea. Miss Anna Munro.

Wed., Feb. 22.—Aberdare. Miss Anna Munro.

Thurs., Feb. 23.—Caldicot. Miss Anna Munro.

MADAM STEER, Theatrical Costumier and Wig Maker,
22, MAIDEN LANE, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.
Factory: EXCHANGE COURT, W.C.

FANCY COSTUMES Made to Order or Lent on Hire.
THEATRICAL BOOTS AND SHOES MADE TO ORDER.

"THE VOTE" PARADES.

Our hearty thanks are due to all those who helped to make the Posters Parades on Saturday and Monday so very effective. In response to a special appeal, Miss Barrow, Miss Elderton, Miss Fennings, Mrs. Huntsman, Miss Pell, Mrs. Pickering, Mrs. Presburg, and Mrs. Thomson Price marched along Regent-street and Oxford-street bearing boards advertising both THE VOTE and our "Boycott the Census." Miss Le Mesurier assisted on the Saturday by giving out bills and selling THE VOTE, and Miss J. Fennings performed a similar task on Monday. The poster-bearers also were supplied with our paper and in all several were sold. On the whole we had a very pleasant reception, and felt we had done a good work when we tramped back to the office, weary, but satisfied. We intend having these parades every Monday and Thursday at 2 p.m. sharp, and shall be glad to hear from all who can help in order that the work may not fall on the few.

WHEN NEXT YOU HEAR
COALS OF FIRE
ON YOUR
ENEMY'S HEAD,

BUY THEM FROM
William CLARKE & SON,

341, GRAY'S INN ROAD, KING'S CROSS, W.C.
95, QUEEN'S ROAD, BAYSWATER, W.
Phones: 628 North, 1592 North, 720 Western, 565 Paddington, &c., &c.
DELIVERIES EVERYWHERE.

We are constant advertisers in "THE VOTE," thus helping to support your paper. Reciprocate by giving us

A TRIAL ORDER.

We will see that you don't regret it!

Stove Cobbles	... 19/6	Large Kitchen	... 20/6
Roaster Nuts	... 21/-	Best Household	... 24/6
Special House	... 23/6	Silkstone	... 26/-

MODERN ARTISTIC DRESS

NOTICE OF REMOVAL TO

"The Studio," 34, Baker Street, W.

Mora Puckle
Embroidered
Coats, Dresses
and Djibbahs
by



Marie Rochford
Handmade Hats
(very Light in Weight),
Toques and
Bonnets.

FIRTH AND MARSDEN,

Also at 16, JOHN DALTON STREET, MANCHESTER

Estab.
1850.

Floral Artists to
H.R.H. The Princess Christian.

Phone
2924 Padd.

**CHARLES WOOD
& SON**

(Successor CHAS. H. W. WOOD),
23, HIGH STREET, MANCHESTER
SQUARE, LONDON, W.

Every Variety of Floral Work in Town or
Country. The Choicest Selection of Cut
Flowers and Plants.

Orders by post receive prompt attention.

Estimates
Free.

Window
Boxes
&c.