

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

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To spend that shortness basely were too long.*

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Notes and Comments.**Hyde Park Meetings.**

Last week we commented on the recrudescence of rowdyism in the Park, and called upon law-abiding Suffragists to rally to the support of the speakers at the N.U.W.S.S. meetings, which are held each Sunday at 3.30 near the Reformers' Oak. Last Sunday there was a splendid muster, Mrs. Fawcett herself spoke, and was supported by a large number of members of the London Society of the N.U.W.S.S., as well as of the Men's League and others. A most successful new departure was the "manning" of the gates by the law-abiding Suffragists, in the N.U. colours, distributing leaflets, and selling THE COMMON CAUSE, this service being rendered by some of our distinguished international guests, including Frau Rosika Schwimmer (Hungary) and Dr. Mia Boissevain (Holland), as well as various well-known English Suffragists outside the Union, among whom were Miss Kathlyn Oliver, and others.

The rowdy element was again present, but was held so well in check that all our speakers made their speeches with success, and the meeting closed with three ringing cheers for Mrs. Fawcett and for a Government measure for Woman's Suffrage.

Those who can do so without neglecting other duties to the cause, should come every Sunday without fail and should send in their names to the N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W., or to the London Society, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. Miss Margaret Robertson will be among the speakers next Sunday.

The Channing Arnold Case.Mr. Wilson replies this week to certain points raised in our correspondence columns in the issue of June 5th. An article from his pen has already appeared in *The English Review* for June, and he hopes to make a further statement in *The Contemporary* for July. As those who have followed the case are aware, Mr. Arnold, Editor of *The Burma Critic*, has suffered the penalties of the law for accusing certain British officials—as the Courts have held without due care, as many who have studied the facts hold with justification—of shielding a man against whom lay grave suspicion of the blackest of crimes done to a little native girl, Aina. Mr. Wilson claims that a further civil action, now pending against Mr. Arnold in this matter at Rangoon, should not proceed. He claims that even if it could be argued, which he denies, that Mr. Arnold had been guilty of insufficient justification for his accusations, he has been already severely punished by four months' imprisonment, and that those he accused have been able to state a full case on their own behalf, while he has been denied by the ruling of the Courts from making good his own position. Mr. Wilson holds that to press the Rangoon case against Mr. Arnold will be a grave moral injustice of such a character as seriously to imperil the position of all who work towards purity of administration in our Indian Empire. Lest it should be, that the most grievous and horrible wrong can be done against a native child under our flag, and none dare to speak out, we urge upon our readers to make themselves acquainted with the facts and bring their conscience and their most considered judgment to bear upon them.**Women's Liberal Federation.**

The W.L.F. Council Meeting last week was an event of first-rate political importance. Among those who made brilliant speeches at it in support of its resolution demanding a Government measure for Woman's Suffrage was Mrs. F. D. Acland. It is with great pleasure that we call the attention of our readers to an article from her pen on the subject of the Council Meeting, which, together with the report of "Outsider," conveys an admirable impression of what occurred.

Plural Voting Bill.

This Bill passed its third reading on the 15th. We report elsewhere the severe criticism to which the Government was subjected by Lord Hugh Cecil and others for having broken its pledges to the women in the matter of franchise reform.

British Wives and Foreign Husbands.Lady Aberconway concludes a forcible letter to *The Times* on this subject with the following words:—

"The Aliens Bill when passed by the British Parliament has yet to be considered in our Colonial Parliaments. Only their Government officials have as yet agreed to the proposed changes. It remains to be seen what democratic Legislatures will do in defence of a married woman's right to preserve her nationality. Women in this country will be very grateful to any Parliament in the British Dominions which will reject all the clauses of the Bill referring to married women, and will substitute for them a recognition of the full right of all British women

who marry aliens to remain British subjects. This right of retaining British nationality on marriage was enjoyed by British women from earliest times until the year 1870, when it was taken away by Parliament on the plea of masculine convenience. It is this Act of 1870 we seek to repeal."

Mr. Roosevelt, Ex-President of the United States, and the Law-Abiding Suffragists' Queen's Hall Meeting.

In connection with the London Society's Demonstration at the Queen's Hall meeting this (Friday) evening, Suffragists will be entertained by the following story: Miss Strachey decided that Mr. Roosevelt must speak on this occasion if he was in England. She therefore travelled all night, and on reaching Plymouth took a ticket to Cherbourg on the ex-President's ship, the "Olympic," boarded that vessel, proceeded to book a cabin, and awaited events. After the usual crowd of pressmen and suchlike had been carried back to Plymouth on the tender, the Secretary of the London Society sent in her note to Mr. Roosevelt. In reply to this came Mr. Philip Roosevelt, who, after carrying a further communication, returned with a message from the ex-President stating that he would have much pleasure in entering her. He greeted the representative of the law-abiding Suffragists with great cordiality, and discussed the movement at some length, reiterating his belief in the cause. He explained that he was irrevocably booked to leave England on the 18th, but owing to this enterprising attempt the satisfactory fact remains that the ex-President carries back with him to America full knowledge at first hand of the law-abiding Suffragist movement in this country. We understand that a few tickets are still available for the meeting and can be obtained at the Hall.

Alexandra Day.

Many Suffragists will no doubt don the Alexandra wild rose on June 24th, as well as their Suffrage badge. In view of the crying need for more women on hospital medical staffs and boards of management, we urge that the contributions of women should be sent direct to hospitals which recognise this.

The only general hospital in London which has women on its staff is the Royal Free in Gray's Inn Road. In addition to this, there are five hospitals in London entirely staffed by women: the New Hospital for Women in the Euston Road, the South London Hospital for Women, Clapham Common, the Canning Town Women's Settlement Hospital, the Women's Hospital for Children in the Harrow Road, and the Clapham Maternity Hospital, Jeffries Road, Clapham. Donations in support of any of these may be sent direct to the addresses given.

Conference of the International Abolitionist Federation.

At this conference, in session at Portsmouth as we go to press, Mr. Philip Wickstead is reported to have made the following pregnant observations: "The regulation question used to be held to be for doctors, soldiers, and police. These specialists are valuable witnesses, but execrable as jury or judges. The popular feeling of women has taught doctors health, policemen order, soldiers the efficiency of the army."

The Parent of the Child.A married woman is not in law the parent of her child; the unmarried woman is, and upon her may rest not only a part, but the whole responsibility for her children. A case lately stated before Mr. Justice Coleridge, Mr. Justice Atkin, and Mr. Justice Avory by a stipendiary magistrate of Liverpool, will be followed with painful interest by Suffragists, for it would appear from *The Times* report of this case on June 11th, that it is possible for a man to escape all responsibility for his illegitimate children, while living in the same house as them and their mother.**Women and Politics: How to Solve the Present Difficulty.**

Mrs. Besant intends to speak on the above subject at the Queen's Hall on the 23rd. Those who profoundly disagree with her views in religion and in politics, as well as those who agree, know, if they have listened to her, that she is a woman justly commanding respect. Whether what she said of India last week was wholly accurate only those who know the country can judge, but the hearts of Suffragists burned within them as she discoursed on the great themes of justice and of liberty, and the atmosphere became charged with electricity. Now and again a militant endeavoured to voice her feelings in a manner subversive of courtesy and order, but in the presence of a speaker and audience loving moral force and believing supremely in it, all such attempts were still-born. We repeat that Mrs. Besant's views on "How to solve the difficulty" will merit attention.

end. The Council then turned to questions of policy. The whole Council agreed to a resolution urging all Liberal women to secure in their respective constituencies the adoption of Liberal Suffragist candidates. This resolution, like that calling for a Government measure, is another step in advance of anything brought forward in former years. On a further question of policy the Council was divided. What is to be done when, in spite of all efforts, an Anti-suffragist Liberal candidate is standing for election? On this point Miss Garland moved on behalf of North St. Pancras the following resolution: "This Council urges all Liberal women to help only those candidates who are supporters of the Suffrage." The resolution was lost by four hundred and fifty-six votes to four hundred.

In order to estimate the significance of this vote, it may be well to clear away certain misunderstandings as to its bearing upon the policy of the Federation as a whole. The official policy of the Federation remains as before. When a Liberal Suffragist is standing for election, the Federation sends one or more organisers to work for him, and sends a whip to neighbouring W.L.A.'s asking them to do likewise. When an Anti-suffragist is standing no official action is taken. The North St. Pancras resolution may be said to have been half-way between a resolution carried in 1911, which suggested (not urged) that Liberal women should only work for Suffragist Liberals, and a resolution moved by Tunbridge Wells and defeated last year, making that policy a condition of affiliation to the Federation. Therefore, as a result of this year's discussion, every Liberal woman belonging to the Federation is free to adopt, or not to adopt, the policy for which the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union stands, to join or not to join that Union, to take or not to take its pledge that she will only work for Liberal Suffragists. The Federation has refused by a narrow majority to give a lead to individual women. Personally, I do not regard that as wholly a misfortune. Each woman remains all the more responsible for her own action in the matter.

The general situation as compared with last year is, I think, more hopeful. Last year, when the Tunbridge Wells amendment was defeated, and on the next day the Dickinson Bill was defeated in the House of Commons, we were within measurable distance of a split in the Federation, which, to my thinking, would materially have weakened us as a fighting force for Women's Suffrage. The formation of the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union—the continued efforts of those who formed it to keep the advanced Suffragists within the Federation—have borne fruit. There is division of opinion within the Federation certainly, but there is also so much and so profound agreement on Liberal principles, including Women's Suffrage, that we can look forward to loyal co-operation among all our W.L.A.'s to advance the causes we all have at heart. One word as to the result of the ballot for the new Executive Committee. A majority of members have been returned who are known to all the delegates to be strongly in favour of the policy of only working for Liberal Suffragist candidates.

ELEANOR ACLAND.

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

CAPE PROVINCE.

At a public meeting held at King William's Town it was resolved, with only four dissentients, to agree to the excision of the word "male" from the franchise clause of the draft King William's Town Municipal Ordinance now before the Provincial Council, and thus extend the municipal suffrage to women on the same terms as men.

DENMARK.

Kvinden og Samfundet reports that the municipality of Copenhagen have decided to appoint two policewomen. This brings the number of women serving in the Danish police force up to four. The first woman was appointed in 1911.

POLAND.

Mme. Melanie Berson, President of the Polish Women's Suffrage Committee, writes that her Committee has been organising a great public meeting, to which all members of the Diet were invited and a few attended. At this meeting M. Berson reminded his audience that within five years' time the revision of the electoral law must take place, and that Commission was very well disposed towards Women's Suffrage.

ROUMANIA.

We learn that a Roumanian lady, Miss Elisa Leonida, has just completed her examinations at the technical school at Charlottenburg and obtained her diploma as engineer. A correspondent of *The Near East* writes:—

"It will be interesting to see whether the young engineer will be able to follow her profession in her native land. So far, only lady doctors and chemists' assistants have been allowed. Although one lady succeeded in passing every examination for lawyer, she is legally not permitted to follow her vocation."

Sister Augustine of Salonica (Miss Nora Bewicke) has been presented by King Ferdinand with the Order of the Merit of

Bulgaria and the Military Ribbon, in recognition of her services to Bulgarian prisoners and refugees during and after the late war.

SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT BEGINS IN SPAIN.

A national campaign in favour of Women's Suffrage is shortly to be started in Spain—which is one of the only three European countries in which there is at present no organised Suffrage Movement, the other two being Greece and the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. The leader of the movement is Emilia Pardo Bazan, a writer of remarkable power, to whom King Alfonso gave the title of Countess in 1908 in recognition of her literary distinction. This award shows that though the position of Spanish women is generally supposed to be somewhat behind the times, it is in certain ways better than our own; seeing that in this country women, however notable their services to the community, are practically excluded from the annual birthday honours list.

U.S.A.

While the world is ringing with the horrors of the strike war in Colorado, it is well to read in *Harper's Weekly* the following testimony of the worth of one woman:—

"The only woman Senator in the United States, already fully tested and a proved honour to her State, still further established her statesmanship during the Colorado civil war. Several times she sought her information at the seat of battle. She talked with the militia and their wives as well as with the strikers and leaders. Where so many were blinded by hate, she was tolerant. Even when her heart suffered, she was calm. When she sympathised most, she had the needed scepticism of the investigator, and she knew that many of the women who poured out their sufferings to her were impetuous, gifted, and inevitable liars. She sought also not the easiest temporary escape but permanent solutions. She is an example of the undoubted truth that politics is one of the occupations in which a number of women are needed, and one of the occupations in which the first-class female intellect shows at its best."

IRELAND.

Mr. Asquith and Mr. Redmond declined to receive the deputation of Irish women which came over last week to lay their views on the Home Rule Bill before them. *The Irish Citizen* of June 13th comments as follows:—

"Mr. Asquith's reason for refusing to receive the deputation is typical. He says that the question of Votes for Women under Home Rule was dealt with by the rejection of the Snowden Amendment to the Home Rule Bill in 1912. He knows perfectly well that the adverse vote on that occasion was excused and palliated by assurances from himself and Mr. Birrell, as well as Mr. Redmond, that the subject would be open for a free vote of the Liberal and Nationalist members on the Manhood Suffrage Bill—a promise never kept, because the Reform Bill was withdrawn. It is therefore false and dishonest to say that the question was settled, in any honourable sense of the word. The question of the enfranchisement of Irish women under the Home Rule Bill has never been settled. Further, there are other factors which have arisen to make the situation widely different from what it was at the time of the Snowden Amendment. The position of the Government itself on the subject of Votes for Women under subordinate Parliaments is no longer the same. The Scottish Home Rule Bill, introduced recently, provides expressly for the enfranchisement of women, and this Bill received the benediction of Mr. McKinnon Wood, who occupies in the Government practically the position in regard to Scotland which Mr. Birrell occupies in regard to Ireland. This is an important and significant admission of the principle, which makes further denial of the franchise to Irish women a shameful outrage."

TWENTY WOMEN POOR LAW GUARDIANS FOR DUBLIN.

We learn from Mrs. Haslam, President of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association, that the elections on May 6th, have brought the number of women Poor Law Guardians and District Councillors in Dublin up to twenty, six in the North division and fourteen in the South. The Chairman of the North division is Miss Weldrick, who headed the poll this year for her ward. Miss Buchanan, Deputy Vice-Chairman of the South, was returned unopposed, as was also Mrs. T. W. Russell.

Mrs. Haslam also calls our attention to the election of Mrs. Wye Power on to the Board of the Richmond Lunatic Asylum, Dublin.

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Correspondence.

"THE TIMES" AND THE ARNOLD CASE.

MADAM,—In your issue of June 5th, Mr. Hooper writes: "*The Times* would no doubt insert a well-worded letter or article." It is intimated my letter may have been libellous. But the excuse is too charitable to that newspaper. *Truth* saw my letter, and thought differently; and, in addition, though I hope Mr. Hooper's touching faith in *The Times* may yet be justified, I may tell what must be my excuse for not writing to it again about this case. In December, 1912, it refused to print a letter from me about the case, while *The Spectator*, *Nation*, *Manchester Guardian*, *Globe*, *Daily News*, and over a dozen more papers printed my letters. Not one letter did *The Times* print on the Arnold Case till Sir H. T. White's appeared. *Truth* has abundantly shown (on May 20th, p. 1239) what a misleading and one-sided letter Sir H. T. White wrote, but when your readers asked me to answer it, and I did so, the answer was not printed. *The Times* may take the right side yet, but that will be in its own leaders or in letters from others, not from me.

In your issue of June 5th, a letter from Mrs. Venning also appeared, which was probably written without a perusal of my article in the *June English Review*. There is not room to touch on all the points she takes, but on one point common humanity requires quick correction. Poor Fatima, the mother of Aina, appears to have been a decent woman and a devoted mother. She was hampered and delayed in delivering her child by a confinement and the illness and death of her husband; but an English barrister who saw her told me he thought she would sooner have died than prostitute little Aina. If she had been willing to take money, I suppose this case would never have been heard of. It is untrue that she "sold" her in any bad sense. She placed out the child in service, as is commonly done in rustic communities. Aina was a bright-eyed, well-doing little "slavey," but in no sense a slave.

I have spent my life in judicial work in Burma, and was for years the "Judge of Moulmein." When I left Burma in 1911, I had had more judicial experience outside Rangoon than any officer than in the province, and I declare that Mr. Arnold not only has been unduly punished, but is still being scandalously victimised by the civil suit for £1,000 damages now being pressed against him at Government expense; and as the Secretary of State in a way represents us all, we are all to blame if we stand by idly and let him worry into ruin or death an honourable English gentleman, whose only fault was that he disbelieved the dogma of official infallibility, and had a faith in our Courts now unusual.

DAVID ALEC WILSON.

MILITANCY AND "THE COMMON CAUSE."

MADAM,—I entirely agree with the letter of the Misses Hill in this week's COMMON CAUSE. I believe a great deal of harm is being done to the law-abiding party by the fact that our official organ does not condemn—indeed, almost condones—the deplorable tactics of the Militants. There is still, among the upper middle-classes, a constant tendency to place all Suffragists, whether militant or otherwise, in the same category, and I believe daily harm is being done to our Cause because we do not make our position sufficiently clear.

A MEMBER OF AN OLD QUAKER FAMILY.

[We have received a large number of letters, some saying that Militant Suffragists should be more severely condemned, and some that they should be less severely condemned. The space available for correspondence on this matter is very limited, but we have pleasure in printing the above brief note from one who holds that THE COMMON CAUSE should condemn more severely.—ED., C.C.]

MISS JOAN GUTHRIE AND "SUFFRAGE TOLLS."

MADAM,—It is only fair to the leaders of the W.S.P.U. to state that the unfortunate mental collapse and suicide of Miss Joan Guthrie had nothing to do with them or their teaching. As a matter of fact, whilst she was a member of their Union she led, according to her own statement to me, a perfectly moral and upright life. About eighteen months ago she sought my advice in reference to a certain man who had obtained an improper influence over her. Whilst in prison she had been forcibly fed, and this had apparently a very bad effect upon a delicate system, and, coupled with the man's desertion, had caused her to take drugs. I have a similar case in hand now. In my opinion, veronal ought not to be allowed to be sold without a doctor's certificate. I trust in your sense of justice to publish this letter.

ANTONIA MOSER.

AGE OF CONSENT.

MADAM,—May I crave the hospitality of your columns to remind your readers that our Bill, dealing with the above question and introduced in the House of Lords by the Lord Bishop of London, passed its second reading in April last.

It is expected that the Committee stage will shortly be reached, and it is therefore most earnestly hoped that all religious bodies, societies dealing with this question, and all interested in moral betterment, will arrange for the passing of resolutions or the signing of petitions in favour of the Bill for despatch to members of the House of Lords. I shall be pleased to supply copies of the suggested resolution or forms of petition on application.


May I add that a meeting in favour of this measure is to be held in Caxton Hall on June 26th at 8 p.m.? All sympathisers will be heartily welcomed.

H. M. TYRER,
Secretary, The London Council for the Promotion of Public Morality,
37, Norfolk St., Strand.

SUFFRAGIST RECTOR FOR ST. JAMES'S, PICCADILLY.

The Rev. W. Temple, headmaster of Repton School since 1910, has been offered by the Lord Chancellor the rectorship of St. James's, Piccadilly, W, which he has accepted. Mr. Temple is a well-known supporter of the Suffrage cause.

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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.

NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

Why does the N.U.W.S.S. Keep the Law?

The Anti-suffragists, barren of argument, barren of inspiration, are just now engaged more actively even than usual, in a campaign of calumny. We published two weeks ago a letter from Miss Courtney, Hon. Secretary of the N.U.W.S.S., which had been addressed to the editor of the *Anti-Suffrage Review*. In this letter Miss Courtney repudiates the statement which appeared in the *Anti-suffrage organ*, that she had declared the N.U.W.S.S. to be law-abiding "because it paid." Letters from a certain prominent member of the N.L.O.W.S. appear frequently in *The Times* and elsewhere, to say that she has found among the 52,000 members of societies within the N.U., one or another sympathiser with militancy. This week a story is going the rounds that Mrs. Fawcett has visited a seaside town, and there accepted a bouquet from the headquarters of the W.S.P.U. We publish in this issue Mrs. Fawcett's reply in *The Times* to a whole series of insinuations of her complicity with militancy. Referring to an action of hers in 1906, she uses the words: "Yes, I am the same Mrs. Fawcett." That is the key of the situation. There are two classes of persons engaged in the campaign of calumny. First, those who, knowing what they say is essentially false, hint and whisper in order to injure the cause whose strength they hate; and, second, those who, loving violence themselves, cannot believe that all are not secretly like-minded. The two classes are closely allied. Let us consider the position of the first. We are not concerned to deny that, most unhappily, there are a few persons in the N.U.W.S.S. stupid enough or dishonourable enough not to understand that you cannot belong to an organisation which not only refrains from militancy but which explicitly condemns it on principle, while you yourself coquette with it. Everywhere there may be fools or knaves. But to argue, or to hint, that the existence of these few persons, whom our rules do not enable us to hang or to imprison, proves that a secret understanding in regard to methods has been established between the N.U.W.S.S. and the W.S.P.U., is to be responsible for such contemptible meanness as is its own worst punishment. As well might Suffragists say that the N.L.O.W.S. is founded on deceit because people are found who say: "Oh, no, I could never be a Suffragist, but of course I think women who pay rates and taxes should have votes," or because an Anti-suffragist organiser or two passes over into the Suffragist camp. Let us turn to the other class—those who love violence, and cannot believe that most Suffragists hate it. Of such we are tempted to say are all men, many women, all Anti-suffragists, the whole House of Commons, two-thirds of the Lords, the press of the country, the magistracy, the clergy, and the Government. But we refrain, —to make such an assertion would be to exaggerate; there are many exceptions. But, indeed, whither is public opinion in this country being guided? We have some thousand women convicted during the past few years of law-breaking in the name of Women's Suffrage. Possibly nearly half of this number have been guilty of the crime of arson or of other forms of violence, though none of the taking of life or of serious injury to persons. Such have been rightly punished with varying degrees of severity. On the other hand, we have had over and over again up and down the country, mob violence directed against women

engaged in their lawful pursuits, women physically attacked, some of them injured for life, insulted, bespattered with mud and filth, bruised, and often with open wounds inflicted upon them, their clothing and their property destroyed, their houses attacked, their windows smashed. In the City last week, sellers of THE COMMON CAUSE were baited and ragged by City men in silk hats; in South-West London four or six days ago, a woman was followed home by a howling mob, and her windows smashed because under her arm she carried a law-abiding Suffragist poster; ten days ago the N.U. flag in Hyde Park was torn to pieces in broad daylight, and the speakers insulted. The instances are far, far too numerous even to refer to. The thing is almost a common-place of the day's work to law-abiding Suffragists at times when the lowest dregs of the population are being incited against them in press and police court.

Through it all, the N.U.W.S.S., like its leader, remains the same. It has condemned violence at all times. It condemned it when it was highly unpopular to do so; it condemns it still. It refrained from indulging in it when it would have paid to do so; it refrains still. It refused to call militant Suffragists heroes for doing violent acts when it would have been convenient so to describe them, and it refuses now to say that they are the blackest, most abandoned criminals known to history. It does this not because the adoption of anarchical methods is not a serious crime of gravest menace to the welfare of the nation, but because while 500 women have done this thing, thousands, nay millions of men throughout the ages have done crimes against womanhood, —nay, even black cruelties against little children, for which they have gone unpunished. That does not excuse the crime of women, but it convicts of ghastly hypocrisy those who would revenge themselves upon these women, and upon all women because of them, by an appeal to lynch law.

Why does the N.U.W.S.S. keep the law? It does not always love the law. It sees in it often and often the instrument of dark oppression; but through it all and beyond it all there is a vision. Goethe has said "the law shall give you liberty"—not violence, not the power of money, not brute force, not smug respectability (which law-abiding Suffragists do not worship as their god) but law, or rather that thing of which law is the symbol; the supremacy of justice, of reason, of the protection of a well-balanced public opinion. The N.U.W.S.S. sees law prostituted, it sees law degraded by those who make or administer it, it sees wickedness in high places; but it has chosen—whatever may be for other times and other countries, the duty of Suffragists here and now is to guard a something which is worthy of preservation, and which, by a campaign allied in principle to nihilism and by the stupidity of those who arrogate to themselves the monopoly of government, is imperilled. Poor thing as it often is, poor contemptible things as those who prate loudest in its defence often are, there is a something sacred in the idea of law, and while the whole nation indulges in violence, the N.U.W.S.S., with the same Mrs. Fawcett at its head, stands for that thing. To it, therefore, the law is, and will remain, sacred.

"How Some of Us Live."

We regret that owing to the amount of news received this week we are obliged to hold over a very interesting article called "A Town of Women," which is the second of a series of articles by Our Commissioner on "How Some of Us Live."

The International Textile Workers' Congress at Blackpool.

BY MISS I. O. FORD, A WOMAN DELEGATE

The Eighth International Textile Congress was held last week in Blackpool. Nine of the European countries sent delegates, and England sent delegates from Yorkshire, Cheshire, and Lancashire. In the Lancashire (and Cheshire) textile trade more women are employed than men, and more women are in the Union, yet there was not one Lancashire woman delegate there—only men, to the number of thirty-six. In Yorkshire many more men than women are organised, but of the eight delegates, one was a woman, myself—for these International Congresses it is not a condition that delegates should be manual workers; I am a member of the Textile Union—while two of the men were those stalwarts for Women's Suffrage, Mr. Ben Turner, Mayor of Batley, and Mr. Allen Gee. The first thing that struck me was how strange this absence of women from the ranks of the best-paid textile workers must seem

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to some of the foreign nations, and particularly in a country where we fondly boast that women are treated more as men's equals than they are, for instance, in Germany. I was delighted to find that it did seem odd to some of them, and we shrugged our shoulders and exclaimed over it a good deal. The wives of the English delegates (no foreign wives had been able to afford the trip) were not allowed—nor was I, a full delegate—to go to Preston, where, besides seeing Horrocks's mill, luncheon, prizes for bowls, tea, and other nice things were provided. Foreign wives at the other Textile Congresses I have attended in other countries are taken round in crowds, and the women delegates are fêted as royally as the men.

When we came to the discussion on the retention or abolition of the half-time system, and of the stoppage of work for the whole of Saturday, it seemed to me really funny how devoid of all sense of humour, and how depressingly like the House of Commons we were! The Saturday work question was discussed and approved of, chiefly, by some entirely, because of the desire of women (so the men said, in quite touching speeches) to have all Saturday in which to do their house work. It was just like the celebrated baby and flannellette debate in the House over again! The half-time system (almost non-existent in Yorkshire textiles) concerns women, on the whole, more than men. The widow who has to support her family ought to have a say in this question, whether her say be right or wrong, for it concerns her vitally; but no Lancashire woman was there!

Why are not women on the Executives of their great Trade Union, as in Yorkshire? They have more votes than men, I imagine, having a larger membership, and I believe their Lancashire men colleagues would eventually welcome them and value their help. I think that the importance of these International Conferences is not sufficiently realised by the women, nor how necessary it is for the strengthening of our Suffrage cause that women workers should be there as delegates. When I made my own speech in French and German, one of these Lancashire delegates came to me and said, "Now I must always cry 'Votes for Women,'" and they were all most generous in their congratulations.

Every question discussed, every reform included in the programme of future work, suffers from being worked in a one-sided fashion. I could not help seeing that, largely owing, I consider, to this too narrow outlook, England has somewhat lost ground amongst these nations since I was last with the delegates, three Congresses ago. The hours of work are being shortened, the wages of the workers are rising, the whole outlook has improved faster in proportion in some of these countries, and the women are awakening faster, than is the case here. Nine years ago England was further ahead in these things than she is now. Where will she be, I wondered, in another nine years? I think it largely depends on our women.

At Verviers, some years ago, we found in a mill we visited, low wages and poor conditions. Now we find women there are earning from 18 to 24 francs, and have a 56-hour week. These are higher wages than in many towns in the West Riding. This is only one instance. It is true women over twenty-one still work at night there, but other conditions are much improved.

Of course, we all know there is no half-time system in Germany; and when, contrary to their own convictions, as many of them confessed, but in deference to the wishes of their Union, the Lancashire delegates voted for the continuation of it, some of the other delegates made really fine speeches on the need for a nation to husband the strength of its children, if it would be great in both mind and body. The small stature of the girls and women in the mill they visited, their pallor, and the number who wore spectacles, deeply and painfully impressed those foreign workers. "This comes of your child labour," they exclaimed. "You are destroying the physique of your nation."

These Congresses, whose aim is to equalise hours, wages, and conditions in all countries (fourteen are affiliated), so that industrial competition—and its companion, war—between nations may be eventually abolished, are deeply interesting. One sees they are, just like the Suffrage Movement, a part of the great universal struggle for a nobler standard of character and personality. But unless women insist, in spite of all the present opposition of men, on taking their place in it, it may very likely dwindle and shrink into mere class war.

Annual Conference of the Association of Head Mistresses.

The fortieth Annual Conference of the Incorporated Association of Head Mistresses was held at the Redland High School, Bristol, on June 12th and 13th.

Perhaps the chief matter in the eyes of the non-educational outside world with which the Conference dealt was resolutions on the Report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service. It will be remembered that the *Times* lately published a letter, signed by officials of the Association, gladly welcoming some of the Commis-

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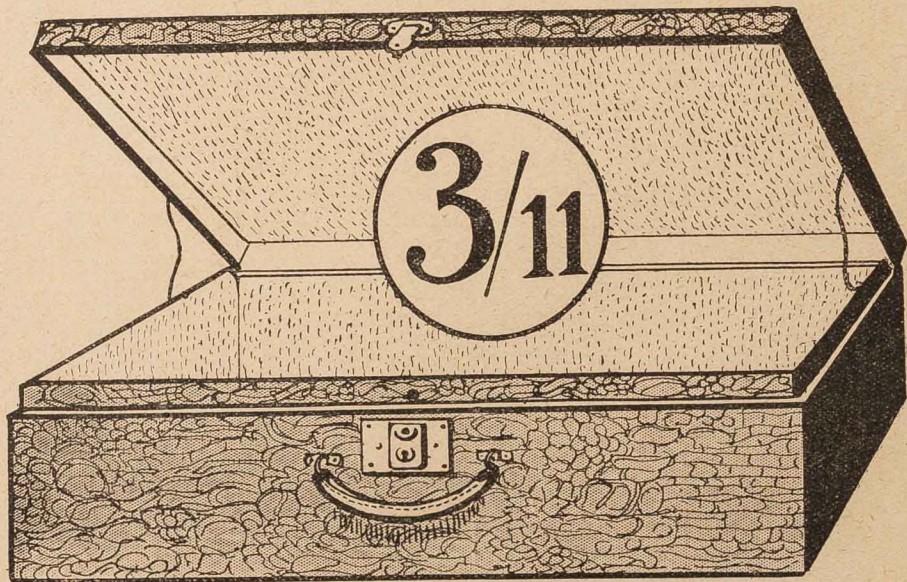
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