

THE VOTE.
June 13 1913.
ONE PENNY

WANTED—A STATESMAN!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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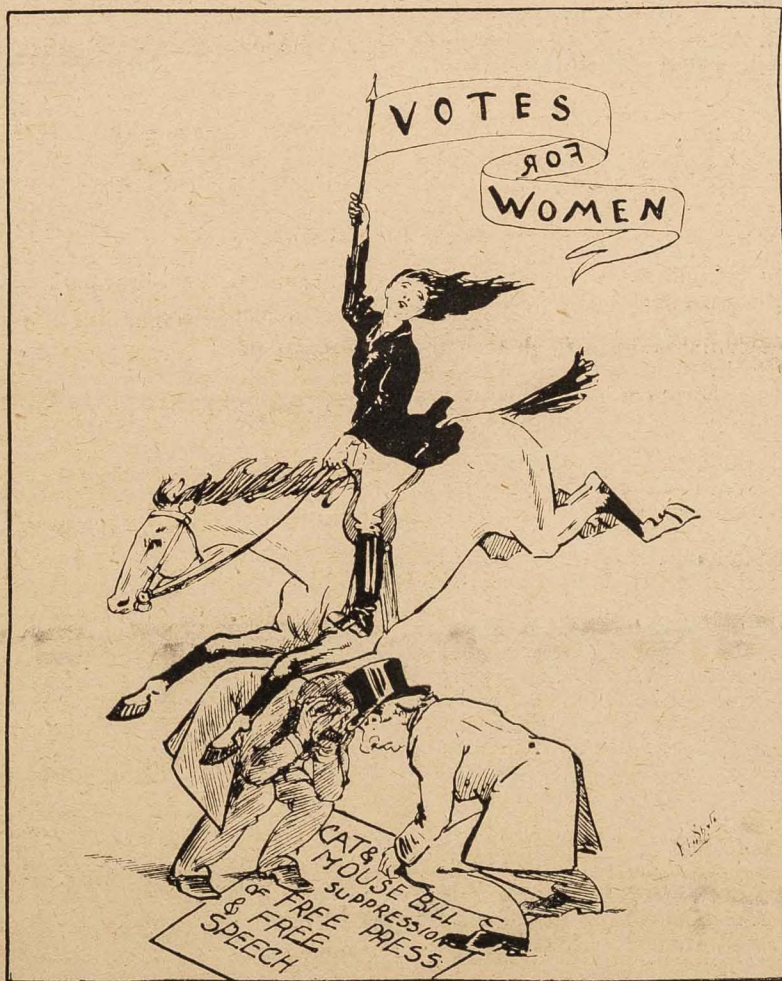
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FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1913.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

THE MILITANCY TOURNAMENT.



With apologies to Olympia.

[Suffrage Atelier.]

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Why Not a Woman?

We take it as a sign of the times that *The Times* frankly recognises the possibility of a woman Poet Laureate, and goes so far as to say in a leading article that "not without reason" might Mrs. Alice Meynell's name be submitted. We should rejoice in the recognition by the State of the commanding merit of a woman's work; it would betoken an awakening of intelligence in quarters which lag far behind even the tardy recognition the critics can no longer withhold. The only doubt in our mind is whether Mrs. Meynell would agree to compel her muse to work to order. Her gifts are for humanity, not even for one nation; they are for low as well as high. The recognition made, however, it would be for her to say whether the Laureate-ship would be fettering or inspiring. Poetry has not always prospered under State patronage, but Mr. Asquith has now an opportunity to offer that patronage to a woman who is great as a poet and great as a suffragist. Will he be wise in time? We may mention here that, as usual, the Birthday Honours List, which is one form of celebrating the monarch's birthday, appeared without one woman's name. With some exceptions it contained, as *The Pall Mall Gazette* remarked, "the usual array of insignificant folk who have the ambition of a lifetime gratified in return for services rendered to their Party." The Imperial Government has no eyes to see or ears to hear women; it has not yet learned a lesson from the Indian Government, which usually includes in its honours list the names of a few women whose philanthropic or social service it deems worthy of recognition by the bestowal of the Kaiser-i-Hind medal. The women who deserve such honours are not likely to spend their energies in scheming to secure them, but it is high time the State recognised that in service and intellect there are no distinctions of sex.

More Masculine Wisdom.

We have already congratulated our young Gravesend Branch on their energy and enterprise, and although their latest scheme of a Suffrage literature stall in the market has been rejected by the town council, we note with keen pleasure that excellent Suffrage speeches were made by several councillors. One pointed out that the sale of literature was a strictly constitutional form of propaganda, and another very aptly said, "You blame women when they do extravagant things, but you drive them to it. You ask them to educate the people in Woman Suffrage and that is just what they want to do by their literature stall. Yet you refuse them permission." We suggest to the distinguished councillor who boasted that his wife had her sleeves tucked up from seven in the morning to seven in the evening, and had the care of nine children, that the best service he can render is to buy Suffrage literature for home consumption and brighten the life of his wife by taking his turn with the children while she joins the Gravesend Branch of the Women's Freedom League and begins to glimpse the fact that she has a soul of her own. Again we congratulate Gravesend on the hearty support given to Woman Suffrage by those councillors who favoured the market stall scheme and regard their wives as equals, with a right to the Parliamentary vote. We judge, however, from the incident of Monday evening that Gravesend requires more suffrage leaven in the lump of ignorance.

Timely Appeals.

Our readers will find on another page the open letter to their Majesties the King and Queen which has been sent by the Women Writers' Suffrage League; it is clear, concise, and forceful, and we wish for it a result beyond the official formal acknowledgment. His Majesty addressed grave words of warning to the peace delegates that an outbreak of hostility among the allies would be "a crime against humanity."

We trust he will be moved to address similar words to his Prime Minister and the Government, because they have not only failed to make peace with his women subjects, but by continued denial of justice are goading them to rebellion—and death—to the hurt of his realm. The Union of Ethical Societies has also made a fine appeal to Lord Morley of Blackburn, Lord President of the Council, to use his influence for an immediate Government measure for Woman Suffrage. It is signed by the chairman, Mr. H. C. Miall Smith, and the secretary, Mr. H. Snell. We take the following extract:—

We appeal to you because your lordship is not only a champion of democratic principles, but also because when recently you were faced in India by a situation similar in many ways to that which is rapidly developing itself in the Militant Suffrage Movement in this country, your high-minded statesmanship showed the true way to deal with it. You did not resort to ever-increasing methods of repression. Instead, even at the risk of being charged with merely acting from motives of fear you insisted on a policy of justice and generosity. You brought what threatened to be a reign of terror to an end by acknowledging the high motives and the legitimate purposes which were behind it. . . . We are convinced that it is the policy of repression, and the indignities inflicted by the Government upon the Suffrage Movement over a long period of years, which are wholly responsible for the present painful state of affairs. . . . Not repressive laws or regulations, but the recognition of the sanity and justice of the women's claim to some measure of Parliamentary enfranchisement, is what the situation really demands. Herein alone, in accordance with the highest tradition of English Governmental policy, is the truly dignified and statesmanlike way of overcoming incipient revolution.

The Manchester Men's League, whose protest against official interference with Free Speech appears in another column, has sent a strong letter to *The Illustrated London News*, pointing out the utter injustice of its recent three-page illustrations of the history of the Suffrage movement by showing only militant action and completely ignoring the provocation of the Government, the "three years of martyrdom" resulting from constitutional attempts on behalf of the Cause, forcible feeding and hooliganism, as well as the magnificent public demonstrations that have been organised, and the attendance of the Lord Mayor of Dublin at the Bar of the House of Commons on behalf of the women. We welcome the help of such clear-sighted men in the midst of the existing muddle-headed blindness of others.

Suffrage and White Slavery.

It is impossible for us, in the time and space at our disposal, to deal in detail with Mrs. Billington Grieg's extraordinary article in *The English Review* on "The Truth About White Slavery." We leave that to those whose expert knowledge comes from concentration on the subject, but we note that she deals only with one aspect of it, namely, the "trapping" of unsuspecting girls into White Slavery. Suffrage Societies have never specialised on any of these particular problems; their aim has always been to establish healthy and natural relations between man and woman of which equal rights of citizenship form a necessary part. We take strong objection to her explanation of the stimulus through which the Criminal Amendment Law of 1912 secured its passage through Parliament. If there were undue emotionalism, it arose not from agitation within Suffrage Societies, but from the natural feeling aroused by the tragic death of William T. Stead, whose brave and self-sacrificing efforts for more than twenty years first startled the country into compelling the Government to move, and whose best memorial it was felt would be further legislative protection for the victims of this terrible trade, no matter how they became emeshed in it.

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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

Summer Campaigns.—We expect to meet quite a number of our members and friends in the district of Aberdovey and Aberystwyth during July and August. Miss A. M. Clark is busy making arrangements for the plan of campaign in which Miss Anna Munro will be the principal speaker.

Our Scottish members intend to run two campaigns, one on the Clyde Coast, the headquarters of which will be at Rothesay, and the chief speaker Miss Alison Neilans, and the other with the caravan, which we understand will be in charge of Miss Semple and Miss Shennan. The caravan is to start from Dundee early in July, and make a tour through Forfarshire.

Tankerton and Herne Bay.—Miss Andrews will be in charge of the work in this neighbourhood for the first part of July, after which it is possible we shall open up a new centre of activity on the Devonshire Coast, which Miss Andrews will look after, and Miss Trott will take her place at Tankerton. Our readers have, therefore, a good choice of places in which to spend their holidays, where they will have ample opportunity of spreading the Cause of Woman Suffrage under the pleasantest conditions.

Sheffield.—Our Sheffield Branch is fortunate in having secured the services of Mrs. Tanner from June 16 to June 21. We wish our members there every success in the campaign they have undertaken.

London Meetings.—Will readers kindly note that our quarrel with the Westminster City Council is so far satisfactorily settled that we shall hold our Wednesday afternoon public meetings at Caxton Hall for the next three weeks. Next Wednesday Mr. J. Cameron Grant will be speaking there on "The Correlation of Sex," and Miss Abram, D.Sc., F.R.Hist.S., on "Englishwomen in the Later Middle Ages." This is an exceptionally good programme, and we hope to see a great number of our friends present on that occasion. The chair will be taken at 3.30.

Captain Carey's Health Food Talk.—We look forward to seeing a good audience Friday evening, June 13, at this office to hear Captain Carey's second address on Food Reform. There will be specially attractive home-made dishes to be sold for the benefit of the League at the close of this meeting. Admission is free, and all friends are invited. The address will begin at 8 o'clock.

Mrs. Perkins Gilman's Lecture.—Those who recently heard Mrs. Gilman lecture on "Assorted Sins," will be glad to know that the Women's Freedom League has again secured her services for Monday evening, June 30, the title of her lecture being, "The Real Devil." The chair will be taken at eight o'clock by Miss Nina Boyle, and there will be opportunity for discussion. Tickets can be obtained from Miss Hunt, W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., at 2s. 6d. (reserved and numbered) and 1s. (reserved and numbered).

Press Department.—Owing to the increasing amount of correspondence with our friends in various parts of the world, it has been thought advisable to merge our Press Department into an International Department, the hon. head of which will, of course, be our friend Mrs. Kate Harvey, who so successfully organised our International Suffrage Fair last year in Chelsea.

Miss Davison's Funeral.—The Women's Freedom League desires to pay its last tribute to the brave Suffragist who gave her life for the Cause, and will

take part in the funeral procession on Saturday, June 14, forming up in Buckingham Palace-road, Victoria Station, at 1 p.m. The procession will start at 2 p.m. for St. George's Church, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, where the memorial service will be held at 4 o'clock. All members are asked to come, wearing their colours, to show their reverence for a courageous comrade, whose many activities included picketing Parliament with us. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

ANOTHER POLICE-COURT SCANDAL.

A more high-handed and improper performance than that in which Mr. Denman, of the temporary police-court in Francis-street, was seen to such disadvantage on Saturday last, it would be difficult to picture. A good many changes have been taking place lately on the Bench; it is greatly to be hoped that a further change may be found necessary whereby this altogether unfit person may either be brought to a sharp sense of his duty, or may be induced to transfer his talent to a sphere where it may be employed with more propriety. For utter disregard of the spirit, as well as the letter of the law, Mr. Denman's achievement would be hard to beat; for sheer insolence it is unrivalled.

The Women's Freedom League held a meeting of protest outside St. James's Palace on Friday morning, to emphasize the absurdity of the present Government posing as the preservers of the peace of Europe when unable to maintain peace within their own borders. What with militant Suffragettes and Ulsterettes, the Peace Ambassadors must be indulging in many covert smiles at the expense of Sir Edward Grey and his colleagues of the Cabinet. A meeting of two or three hundred people gathered, with laughter but no disorder, to listen to Miss Andrews, who was supported by Miss Gibson and some other members of the League, and for quite a quarter of an hour no disturbance took place nor was any inconvenience suffered. An officious "Anti" finally intervened, and on his initiative the police, who had been calmly contemplating the scene, roused themselves to sudden activity and started quite a disturbance by stopping Miss Andrews and arresting her. Miss Gibson, who continued the meeting amid amused cheers, was also arrested, as was Mrs. Hyde, who had no intention whatever of "holding a meeting"; while Mrs. Pratt, who secured the platform and held a further meeting a few paces up the street, was not arrested. The "well-dressed hooligan" was much in evidence, his remarks and attitude giving, as usual, the plainest testimony to the need which women have of a weapon with which to protect themselves from such offensive guardianship.

At the police-court that afternoon a remand was asked for to prepare the defence. Mr. Denman querulously agreed to a seven days' remand; but when the question of bail came up, pretended to have ground for refusal because the prisoners had given the office address. It may be remarked here that none of them had refused their private address; they simply had not been informed that their private address was necessary. In the end he altered the remand to the next day.

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instead of that day week, and refused bail on the ground that it would take at least twenty-four hours to verify the addresses! If this be the case, it is a very sound argument for a drastic overhauling of police methods, and makes the twenty-four hours' remand a ludicrous burlesque.

Next morning the prisoners, who had been conveyed to Holloway and naturally had been entirely unable to communicate with witnesses, demanded a week's further remand, so as to enable them to arrange the defence with their friends. Mr. Denman had the assurance to say that they were well in a position to say anything that was necessary, and that they only wanted a remand "to go fishing round to get people to come into court and make speeches." He curtly refused the request, and sentenced them to 20s. or fourteen days, *without allowing them to put in any defence.*

A more startling piece of judicial high-handedness it would be impossible to find. It seems to carry us back to the days of Judge Jeffreys. So careless of appearances have these arrogant officials become, under the aegis of the most arrogant Government known to modern times, that they no longer keep up even a pretence of impartiality; and we are shown, once for all, without any concealment, how close is the alliance between the police and the Bench. Mr. Denman assumes, off-hand, that there can be no flaw in the police evidence, and that it is a waste of time to bring any witnesses to court at all after the police have spoken. It is this steadily encroaching danger to the rights and liberties of the public that is being combatted; few realise how grave the situation has already become.

Mrs. Despard, Miss Underwood, and Miss Boyle at once repaired to the Home Office, and placed the matter in writing before the private secretary of the Home Secretary, who gave an assurance that the matter should at once be reported to the proper authorities and inquired into. In the meantime, Miss Andrews, Mrs. Hyde and Miss Gibson were conveyed to Holloway.

C. N. B.

The result was evident, when on Monday morning the three prisoners were informed that their fines had been paid and that they were free. We protest against this continued indiscriminate payment of Suffragists' fines by the Government or anyone else; it is merely saving the face of the authorities and in no sense dispensing justice.

The following letter has been sent by the Women's Freedom League to Mr. McKenna:—

The Right Hon. REGINALD MCKENNA,
Secretary of State for the Home Department.
DEAR SIR,—With further reference to the complaint made last Saturday in regard to the illegal and irregular conduct of the magistrate at Marlborough-street Police Court in refusing bail to three members of our League without giving adequate reasons, these three members have now been released. They were told that their fines were paid. We would point out that they themselves did not pay these fines, and we did not pay them. The Government possibly may know who has paid them. But the payment of the fines does not do away with the cause of our complaint. The right of bail belongs to all accused persons, unless the magistrate gives adequate reasons for its refusal. In our opinion one of the accused, Mrs. Hyde, was unjustly charged, and the police evidence was full of inaccuracies. For these reasons the accused asked for vail and a remand to prepare their defence. The only reply the magistrate gave was that he saw no reason to grant bail or a remand, and that he supposed that their reason for desiring

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was that they wanted "to go fishing round for people to make public speeches in Court." We regard this statement as a highly improper one on the part of a magistrate paid to administer justice impartially, and we protest against this right of bail being denied on the strength of a magistrate's supposition.

We should like to know what steps you have taken, or intend to take, to prevent the recurrence of such an infringement of our common rights.—We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) C. DESPARD.
E. KNIGHT.
C. NINA BOYLE.
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

We have also made the following statement to the Press:—

The Women's Freedom League looks with grave apprehension at the growing encroachments on the liberties of the public under the aegis of an autocratic administration. Mr. Denman's extraordinary conduct, in refusing bail because it would take twenty-four hours to verify the addresses, after refusing a remand for seven days and reducing it to less than twenty-four hours, when the remand was asked for to prepare the defence; his still more extraordinary conduct in sentencing prisoners without hearing a defence at all, in spite of their indignant protest that they desired to call witnesses, should give the public some idea of the constant unrecorded attacks on legality and on the public rights that takes place in the courts of summary jurisdiction by the very people whose business it is to uphold the law, and who are paid by the public for that purpose. The policy of the Women's Freedom League, which is to attack the Government and the administration of the law, was never better justified than by Saturday's disgraceful episode.

"Prison has become a Temple of Honour."

Miss Andrews tells of the subsequent experiences of the prisoners as follows:—

All Suffragists re-echo the utterance of William Ewart Gladstone: "Prison has become a temple of honour," for the only way to liberty for women seems to be through the prison gates. Of our unfair trial and complete denial of possibilities of defence the record has been given. As we were remanded, in custody, we had three trips in "Black Maria." Even the cheers of our friends resounding in our ears could not prevent the journeys from being most unpleasant. After being locked up in a little box with scarcely room to move, and jolted from prison to prison to take up more offenders against the law, we were only too thankful when we reached our destination. The other prisoners kept up a constant chatter, exchanging views as to their various experiences. One woman said she was given three days for being drunk, but explained, "I wasn't drunk, my dear, but I'd got my thirst on!" Our journeyings convinced us that if, as seems likely, the very little openings to those terribly cramped cells are to be closed when men are in the van, the torture will be increased. Black Maria must be reformed out of existence.

A tribute should be paid to the officer on the van, who did all in his power to ease our discomfort. As we were being taken to the remand cells we heard an eager voice calling, "Are you Suffragettes?" and our response brought a cry of welcome. Next day, at exercise, we met four Suffrage prisoners who have been serving a long term in Holloway; of course, they were glad to get the latest news from the outside world. I found my cell at Holloway much superior to the one in which I was placed in Ipswich—the result of the "cleaning" of Holloway by the untiring efforts and indomitable courage of the Suffragettes. The wardresses are kind, and even if they do not understand what we are striving for, we have won their respect. They will look back upon us with pride when victory is won, and when public opinion, having recognised the justice of our fight, will say, "Of course, we always thought women should have votes." But now the fight must go on.

D. X. Block in Holloway has been captured by the Suffragettes and made inhabitable by them; this fort must be held, for it has been dearly won. On Monday morning we were reading in our cells when the doors were thrown open, and a voice said, "Make haste and get your things together; your fines are paid!" Needless to say this unexpected release made us more and more determined to fight on, and we walked out with the words of the song resounding in our ears:

"March on, march on, fight till the dawn,
The dawn of liberty."

Extraordinary Scene at Gravesend.

Our Branch at Gravesend decided to hold an open-air meeting on June 9. It was certainly well advertised, for when the secretary of the Women's Freedom League and Mr. Simpson, of the Men's League, arrived at Gravesend station they found enormous crowds assembled "to see the Suffragettes." The road in which the Gravesend Branch secretary lived was also thronged with people, and it was with some difficulty that her house was reached. The crowd there grew denser every minute, and the Chief Constable called to inform her that at least 20,000 people had come out to make mischief, and he strongly advised the abandonment of the meeting. Mob-law evidently rules in Gravesend, for the police also volunteered the information that they knew the pockets of most of the people in the crowd were filled with missiles. That there were some missiles was proved by the fact that the windows of our Branch secretary were soon broken. After a further conference the Branch members

decided to abandon the meeting that evening and dish the mob of its sport. The Constable promised to clear the road; it apparently did not occur to him to 'phone through to Rochester for reinforcements, and for hours the crowds were allowed to create obstruction everywhere and render public ways impassable. The curious thing is that the Chief Constable seems to have had most of his men dressed up in what were called "plain clothes," making them look less like policemen than anything else in the world! We suggest that if this was the best the Chief Constable could do in the way of keeping law and order it would be advisable to replace him at an early date by a man who understood what were the duties and responsibilities of a public servant in his position. He declared that never since the days of Sir Robert Peel, who only escaped with his life, had such a scene been witnessed in Gravesend, but his solemn charge to the speakers, that only could they expect to avoid ambushed enemies if they went to the station in a taxi, was proved absolutely absurd by the quietness of the streets through which they walked quite unmolested to catch the last train to town.

Protest Meeting Outside Mr. Denman's House.

The news from the Home Office being entirely unsatisfactory, with regard to a practical answer to our letter, the W.F.L. held a successful and unhindered protest meeting outside Mr. Denman's house, Evelyn-gardens, South Kensington, on Tuesday evening last. A number of ladies and gentlemen in evening dress came out and listened to the speeches, which continued for some time, as the one policeman within sight, after a vain attempt to stop the speakers, thought discretion the better part of valour in view of the strength of the Suffragists, and watched the proceedings from a safe distance. Cheers were given for "Votes for Women" and the demonstrators, having held their meeting, and sold copies of THE VOTE, went home undisturbed.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Manchester Men Protest.

The officers of the Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage have circulated a remonstrance against the attitude adopted by the authorities in London towards the Men's League and other Suffrage societies respecting the Sunday meetings in Hyde Park, in the course of which they state:—

"The Home Secretary's answer in the House of Commons (May 1) to representations made in the matter of Men's League meetings we regard as highly unsatisfactory, amounting to an admission that he cannot, or does not wish to, protect a legitimate series of propaganda meetings, simply because a certain section of the public has broken the law in its attempts to prevent their being held."

Among the signatories to this remonstrance are the following: The Lord Bishop of Lincoln (a former President of the Manchester Men's League); Professor Ernest Rutherford, LL.D., F.R.S., the University of Manchester; Professor T. F. Tout, the University of Manchester (who sympathises with the substance of the remonstrance, though he does not much like the drafting); Mr. G. Warre Cornish, M.A., the University of Manchester; Rev. R. Nicol Cross, Rev. W. Whitaker, B.A. (Oxon.), Mr. G. G. Armstrong, Mr. H. Bottomley Knowles, M.A. (Oxon.), Dr. E. Vipont Brown, Mr. H. V. Herford, Mr. D. M. Humphreys (chairman of Executive Committee, Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage).

Climbing Down.

From *The New Statesman*, of May 24, we take the following:— "As we anticipated, the new printer of *The Suffragette* has not been prosecuted, and during the week the authorities have given other satisfactory evidence of their desire to climb down from their dangerous perch. The undertaking which Mr. Edgar Whiteley was forced to give when he was first brought before the magistrate was that he would not "directly or indirectly take part in printing or publishing 'The Suffragette' or other organ of the Women's Social and Political Union, or in printing or publishing any matter inciting to crime, &c." When the case came up again for hearing on Tuesday last, Mr. Whiteley's counsel applied successfully for the words in italics to be struck out. Mr. Hewart, on behalf of the Public Prosecutor, raised no objection, remarking blandly that "he did not think the proposed alteration made any difference." As Mr. Hewart, and everyone else present knew, the proposed alteration involved the whole point at issue, the whole difference between the freedom of the Press and its arbitrary suppression by administrative order. We would suggest to the magistrates who have been concerned in this affair that their duty to the public comes before their duty to the executive, and that whilst the chief blame rests with the public department which drew the undertaking in its outrageous original form, they cannot escape their share of censure for having ever allowed it to be enforced."

Eliminate Mr. Asquith and . . .

Mr. P. W. W. Wilson, the Parliamentary correspondent of *The Daily News*, writing on "The Future of Women's Suffrage," in *The Englishwoman* for June, says that Mr. Asquith's "Anti-Suffrage views are an accident," adding, "amongst men of Prime Ministerial rank, the majority are Suffragists. . . . Eliminate Mr. Asquith from the recent debate, and who doubts that the second reading would have been carried?" He



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continues: "It is a mistake to imagine that the abolition of plural voting is all that Liberals want. Having tasted the ampler dish, they will not be content with the *hors d'œuvres*—which means that the decision as to votes for women can only be set at rest by Liberalism in one way. Leave that decision in abeyance, and the great fields of reform—social, as well as electoral—are hopelessly encumbered."

Referring to the Prime Minister's denial of "the natural right to vote," P. W. W. says: "Mr. Asquith's theory of the vote would justify a Government making the vote conditional upon vaccination or military service, or acceptance of certain religious dogmas. Such a Government might use this very phrase that voters should be considered in the mass. I have only to state with uncompromising frankness that such doctrine is not, never has been, and never can be the doctrine of Liberalism. . . . You cannot lay it down that the vote, if claimed, may be constitutionally refused, without shattering the very axioms on which alone the authority of the House of Commons is based." "The real battle will be," says P. W. W., "not between votes for women and no votes, but between many votes for women and few votes. I can discover no agitation against any and every form of Woman Suffrage. There may be dislike of it. There may be intense irritation with incitements to disorder. But there is no vestige of such outcry as arose in 1886 against Home Rule. Nine out of ten newspapers accept the reform in principle. It is working excellently wherever it has been instituted. And the reason is that in the nature of things it can do nobody any harm; it costs nothing in taxation; it robs no one of any right that he already possesses; and, as Sir Edward Grey argued, education has made it inevitable."

Mrs. Pankhurst Still at Large.

Mrs. Pankhurst, who had continued to hunger strike on being recommitted to Holloway, on May 26, was released on May 30, being "seriously ill." In a letter read at the W.S.P.U. meeting, on June 2, she declares that her weakness is purely physical, that she treats the terms of her release with contempt, and intends to resume the work to which her life is given. If taken back to prison she will continue her protest against the attempt to govern women without obtaining their consent at the ballot-box.

The Church's Duty.

At a successful and orderly demonstration organised by the Church League for Women's Suffrage, in Trafalgar-square, on May 31, the Rev. J. Drew Roberts said that if there was one cause which the Church of England ought to support with heart and voice, it was that of Woman's Suffrage, because, as every clergyman knew, the Church owed much to women workers and women worshippers.

THE NEW CRIMES ACT.

The Crimes Act for Ireland, and the Administration which enforced it, were fiercely and almost hysterically fought by members of the present Cabinet at a date not so distant but that many remember the incidents vividly. A Conservative Government, panic-stricken and furiously angry at a certain condition of things in the sister isle, endeavoured to frame a law which would enable them to cope with the trouble; and a Liberal Opposition, equally angry, raged at them for not meeting the trouble by concessions to the state of feeling which provoked the crime and the Crimes Act. To-day these same Liberal politicians, so eloquent on behalf of gentlemen in Ireland, are devising and enforcing equally drastic measures to coerce women in England. Just as Lord Salisbury refused to consider Irish feeling, so Mr. Asquith refuses to consider Suffragist feeling; and one form of coercion, we can confidently affirm, will prove as ineffective and futile as the other.

Mr. Asquith's Government passed, in 1908, an Act of Parliament which could, by no conceivable argument, have been considered urgent, seeing that it has not been put into practice from that day to this. It is to enable the Government to recover from a person charged, the costs of criminal prosecution. Several thousands of persons have been criminally proceeded against since its passage; against none of them has it been enforced—until it came to Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, in whose case the jury were emphatic in urging the "purity of motive" by which their "crime" was redeemed from any semblance of "moral turpitude." So the Government singled them out to make an example. Not only does this law punish guilty persons; it punishes innocent persons, for it ordains that those proceeded against under its provisions must pay their own costs if innocent, and the Government's also if guilty. But it goes further, it establishes a curious kind of class legislation. It enables the Government, in a case of concerted crime, or conspiracy, to single out the wealthier member or members of the group proceeded against, and make that person, or persons, the scapegoat for the lot, so to speak. We believe this to be entirely unconstitutional and improper.

This ugly snake of an Act, which has been lurking in the Government compound for nearly five years, has another defect. It enables a person to be punished twice for the same offence. Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence have suffered imprisonment for the "conspiracy" of which they were convicted. Now they have been made bankrupt and are being persecuted, by action of the Crown and of several business firms, so that a second form of punishment may be inflicted on them for the same offence. We believe this to be entirely illegal, and that if the matter were carried to appeal and to the Lords, it would be found to be as absolutely *ultra vires* as the action of judges in holding cases *in camera* and then prosecuting for contempt of court those who divulge the proceedings.

To suffer imprisonment has always been held to "purge" the offender of his offence. It is a standing principle of the Common Law that one cannot be punished twice for the same offence, *autrefois acquit* ("already acquitted") is a sound and valid protection in law against a fresh prosecution. Any new enactments which overrides this principle should be fought to the death, as otherwise no man will be safe from vindictive pursuit, no matter how severely he may be sentenced to purge his offence by the Criminal Courts in the first instance. It is a most dangerous principle, and one that the public, male and female, will have

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good cause to dread, if it be allowed, unchallenged, to find its way into custom.

There is a further ground for protest against the introduction of this dangerous principle. It is quite plain that the Government means to use this new power as a political weapon. It is no more meant for ordinary criminal offenders than the Cat-and-Mouse Bill was meant for the ordinary prisoner. It is for use against militant Suffragists, and, perhaps, militant Ulsterists—except that we believe it is non-operative in Scotland and Ireland, and is a foretaste of what Home Rule for England will be! And the record of Governments, from the days when Government was the King, to the days when Government is an illiberal and prejudiced Prime Minister, has been so ugly an one in respect of all new movements for reform or for freedom, that such a weapon as the Act of 1908, which we are now discussing, is far too dangerous to trust to the hand of any party administration.

Let us cast our eyes back through the pages of history. The Barons resisting John, and calling the burghers to help them in their fight with that monarch's son; the struggle of the Lollards and other "heretics" against the power of Church and State; the Parliamentarians against the Stuarts; the people against the Protector, when the Parliament had got its quietus; the Bishops against the King; the Trades' Unions against the law; Robert Owen, Bradlaugh and Mrs. Besant, and the Salvation Army, against mob law backed up by the police; all these show what may be expected of Governments in their relation to new thoughts, new movements, new reforms, new reformers. Each and all they crucify in turn, until the new idea becomes old, and a new victim is forthcoming.

The business of Governments is, among other things, to spend certain portions of the taxes paid by the people in maintaining law and order and in administering justice. The people has never asked that the costs of this administration shall be refunded. No popular outcry has ever been raised over the expense of conducting criminal cases; no agitation on the subject has ever been known; no one single Member of Parliament has even been instructed by his constituents, or has ever even received a deputation, on this subject. The protection afforded to the public by the Criminal Courts has always, and rightly, been considered sufficient return for the outlay, even though the sentences and procedure leave something to be desired. It is quite evident that, when the Government passed this most improper measure that it was indulging in a stroke off its own bat. It wanted to be able to put the screw on when any popular—or unpopular—movement might be kept under by timely appliance of the financial screw; and the public owes, and should find some means of paying, a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence for the public spirit and devotion to principle which has been the means of bringing this ugly conspiracy against the public on the part of the Government to the light of day.

C. NINA BOYLE.

OUR GOOD WISHES.—A wedding of special interest to Suffragists took place at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, on June 3, when Miss Burke, M.A., of Melbourne, was married to the Rev. F. Spencer, of Burnley, Lancs. The marriage service was performed by the Rev. Hugh Chapman, Chaplain. Both Mr. and Mrs. Spencer are keen Suffragists, and part of the honeymoon will be spent in Budapest. Mrs. Spencer has been appointed official representative of the Commonwealth of Australia to the International Women Suffrage Conference, and she is also representing the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Association. All Suffragists will join in wishing the happy couple a very bright future.

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FRIDAY, June 13, 1913.

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: 2, ROBERT STREET, DELPHI, W.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.

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WANTED—A STATESMAN!

In one of Maeterlinck's strange parable plays the curtain rises on a company of blind people, men and women, old and young—one woman with a child in her arms; another mad—sitting motionless, for they dare not stir in a rough and desolate place. In the near distance the moaning of the sea is heard. We gather from their conversation that they have been knocking up against rocks and tree-stumps, in their efforts to find and follow the guide, who has led them out of the institution where they have spent their lives. Being blind they do not know that he is lying dead amongst them. A dog howling over his body brings this calamity to their knowledge, and they feel themselves lost.

Suddenly the child gives a cry; the mad woman takes it out of the mother's arms and rushes forward. Then, on the bewildered little company there breaks a hope. "She has seen the light," they say. "Yes, and we can now hear footsteps. Help is near."

As the plot around us thickens; as women are driven to desperate deeds; as men who profess wisdom show their miserable incapacity to deal with a situation ever deepening in horror and complexity, we are reminded of Maeterlinck's parable. The people are blind; they cannot see their way. The powers that be, groping in the dark, are blinder still. They find themselves in the presence of unknown and unsuspected forces. Tradition is no guide. Convention, by which they have been governed in the past, seems to have lost its power. Everywhere there are hindrances. When protested with they profess (because they cannot see whither they are drifting) to believe that all is right. Patience, a little more severity, a little further delay, and the trouble will be over. The rebel women and the recalcitrant men will own themselves vanquished, and things will resume their normal course. These outbreaks—this determination of outraged women and angry men to make their voices heard—this law-breaking, these attacks upon property need not concern anyone much. In any case it would be wrong; it would be dangerous

to the stability of the community to allow disorder or menace to affect legislation.

Alas! how many times have blind leaders of the blind used the same outworn formulæ!

In the memorable year 1831, when the country was seething with discontent and rebellion, such arguments were used. And a wise man answered them.

"Is delay no evil?" asked Macaulay in the House of Commons. "Is prolonged excitement no evil? Is it no evil that the heart of a great people should be made sick by deferred hope?"

Put for "people" the womanhood, the motherhood, of the nation, and, once more, these words grow vital. Now, as then, the Government is warned against hasty legislation. "Would you legislate in times of great excitement? Yes, sir, I would," said Macaulay, boldly. And he understood what his words implied. In truth no great excitement can be causeless. Is the excitement displeasing? Does it seem to be dangerous? Let the cause be sought; let it be quietly and truthfully dealt with, and the excitement will pass away. This, at least, is the way of the statesman. But where is the statesman to-day? Sadly we answer, He is not to be found. Look at those who are supposed to guide us! Where is the breadth, where is the foresight, where is the imagination that belongs to true leaders and honest statesmen?

MACAULAY ON HASTE IN LEGISLATION.

Extracts from a speech delivered during the debate in the House of Commons on the Reform Bill, December 16, 1831.

IS delay no evil? Is prolonged excitement no evil? Is it no evil that the heart of a great people should be made sick by deferred hope? . . . What then, it is said, would you legislate in haste? Would you legislate in times of great excitement concerning matters of such deep concern? Yes, Sir, I would: and if any bad consequences should follow from the haste and the excitement, let those be held answerable who, when there was no need of haste, when there existed no excitement, refused to listen to any project of Reform, nay, who made it an argument against Reform, that the public mind was not excited. . . . Half the logic of misgovernment lies in this one sophistical dilemma: If the people are turbulent, they are unfit for liberty: if they are quiet, they do not want liberty. . . . But Reformers are compelled to legislate fast, because bigots will not legislate early. Reformers are compelled to legislate in times of excitement, because bigots will not legislate in times of tranquillity.

have been the overthrow of the Liberal Government, was any action taken.

Mr. McKenna, again. Finding it impossible to break the spirit of the rebel-women, he appeals to the House of Commons to strengthen his hands, and there is further panic-legislation, the futility of which has already become evident.

A man who possesses property has been helping the women in their righteous revolt. Such action increases the difficulties of the Government. Again they legislate in a hurry. A new law is passed whereby not only is the culprit's liberty taken temporarily, but financial ruin may be brought upon him. With this behind them our legislators cry out in lofty indignation against the folly which would allay the growing excitement of our women with an act of conciliation. Could hypocrisy itself go further?

And the result? Ah! have we not just had a terrible example of that to which women can be driven by the anguish of stifled aspirations, by the passion of pity and wrath? While, in sorrow and reverence, not daring to criticise, we consider this action, let us try to have

before us the image of woman, as, in the depths of her nature, she is. A son of genius tells the story of a young man, awakened by a first deep love to new thoughts of womanhood. He cherished, we are told, "the exquisite dream of a woman-saviour, who would be very near to every one of us, because there would be in her heart the blind tears of the child and the bitter tears of the man, and the patient tears of the woman. She would be the Compassionate One."

Cannot those gifted with imagination, those whose blindness, through the force of the great tumult, is passing—cannot they perceive how that compassion of woman, bound, tortured, forbidden, may burst suddenly into uncontrollable flame, and then the form which holds it is rent; then, willingly, gladly, the awful choice is made. Danger, suffering, death is welcomed if, through these, awakening may come, redemption may be wrought.

This is how the action of Emily Wilding Davison should be seen. Not hysteria! It was a self-possessed woman who threw herself on the rein of the King's horse on the race-course, who, like the divinely mad woman in Maeterlinck's play, saw, in one lurid flash, the inevitable and sprang forward to meet it. That, and that alone, is the explanation.

In different ways, but on all sides, the same spirit is shown. So on women of to-day a new consciousness has come. They have seen, and never again can they close their eyes in idle slumber.

But now comes the question, momentous beyond expression, What is to be done? Must the women in this sad country go on fruitlessly striving? Must they see their labour exploited, their honour robbed, their motherhood degraded, their work despised; or are the strange things which stir some and perplex others but the prelude to a great discovery? Who is to answer? Only the one who is wanted unspeakably in Great Britain to-day, the Statesman—man or woman; we use the word in its generic sense—who, selfless, with no pandering to party, no sycophancy to wealth or power, no personal ambition, will conceive and be able to force forward a national, human policy, so broad and logical, that it will grip the minds of true men and women; so wisely framed that it will bring in its train not the hope, but the certainty of reconciliation and domestic peace. Such a one will remember what was said long ago by our divinest poet:—

Never will peace and human nature meet
Till, free and equal, man and woman greet
Domestic peace; and ere this power can make
In human hearts its calm and holy seat,
This slavery must be broken.

For a statesman of this stamp our country is watching and waiting. "WHERE IS HE?"

C. DESPARD.

UNBALANCED.

In the afternoon two or three people had spoken to me of the stopping of the King's horse at the Derby. "What good does it do?" said one. "Unbalanced," commented another. Some hours later, coming out of the Queen's Hall, a friend told me that Emily Wilding Davison was dead.

Through the streets we went, the car hooting and whistling its way through the people who thronged the pavements and spread out into the road. It was about half past eight o'clock, and daylight was still clear, making the little blots of light in the lamps look poor and insignificant. On, through the streets, amidst the tram cars and the bicycles, past Holloway, lacking one chief prisoner, deprived for ever of another, out into the open country. And still, far out, and further yet, still motor busses and bicycles, and foot passengers. Did they know, all these people? Did they care? What good did it do, the life given up?

Daylight was fading now. The lamps showed clearer in village streets, on bicycles, on motor cars. Lights all of them, very near the ground, that people could see without much raising of the eyes. And above,

very far above, in the pale sky that never, all through June, quite blackens into night, the stars were shining. What good did they do? Above the earth, above the moon, slender and young, uncomprehended in their courses by the men of the bicycle lamps and busses; what good did they do?

None, possibly, in the eyes of bookmakers; none, or not a hundredth part of the good that can be done by spur and whip, in the eyes of the mass of people who watch and press and shout as, straining nerve and muscle and heart, flogged and goaded, the horses come with a rush round Tattenham Corner.

Laws against betting; raids—very occasionally—on gambling houses; and a vast concourse of people gathered under the auspices of their King, to bet and gamble. This is what Englishmen call balance. Not balanced is it, weighed in such scales as these, not balanced, most certainly, to give all for a Cause, to lay down life for an idea.

At last all the lights, the little wavering lights, were left behind, and there were only empty roads and great dark spaces, and above, beyond the slice of moon, the steady stars. And back, floating on with the swift motion of the car, vibrating through the clear still night, came the wonderful voice and the wonderful words of the speaker heard two hours since.

Of mysteries the voice had spoken, ancient as the world, given forth again and again to men, by great world teachers, and last of all by Him men call the Christ—mysteries given to the mass of men only in parables, declared in their fulness only to those who had reached the stature of discipleship; mysteries which have dropped out of the religions of the day, not from lack of teachers, but from dearth of pupils. And if they are to come back, the wonderful voice had said, you must bring back heroism, you must lead heroic lives. Not to convention must allegiance be given, not to what people think or say, not to the verdict of the commonplace, not to man's judgment. Those who put aside convention, those who heed not blame or ridicule or ignominy, those who give all, even to liberty, who give all, not even withholding life, for a cause, for an idea, those are they who are rising to that point of progress where, in return for service selflessly given, knowledge may be bestowed. There were other words, too, in the rushing air, words from a wondrous book: "For your will must be like tempered steel if you will tread the path."

Gifted, courageous, with a fidelity that refused no sacrifice, a will that never swerved, she made her appeal to the King of England, that woman who is dead, through the sport presided over by the King. Once before, three women had appealed to the King, with peaceful petition, in the streets of London, when the King was on his way to Parliament. They were flung into prison. It was not enough. What do Englishmen care for constitutional petition? It was not enough.

Now, through the sport that rouses Englishmen to enthusiasm, at the moment when that enthusiasm was tensest, a woman throws herself, a living petition, before the horse of the King, since to the King himself no woman or petition of women may come.

Is it enough? Very much torn she was, greatly mauled, and now she is dead. A living petition; wordless; but the thing she died for is written down in her blood. Can you understand now, Englishmen? Can you get an idea into your heads and hearts when it is translated into blood? Or will you still say that to lay down life for a Cause is unbalanced? Will you still ask, of heroism—and the stars—"What good do they do?"

Dead? Yes, to the concourse of people who heard the thunder of the hoofs and saw the rush and the fallen forms. Dead? Yes, to the newspaper reporters, and the sporting public, and the people who ask what good it does. Dead? Nay, not to all of us. We know, we who understand, we know that she has passed from death unto life, because she loved the brethren.

G. COLMORE.

In Memoriam:

EMILY WILDING DAVISON.

Derby Day, June 4, 1913, was made historic by the courageous self-sacrifice of Emily Wilding Davison, who, at the moment when the horses had rounded Tattenham Corner for the final straight gallop to the winning-post, dashed into the course and, seizing the King's horse, brought it down, but was trampled upon and fatally injured; the jockey was thrown clear and was not seriously hurt. Miss Davison was taken to the Epsom Cottage Hospital; Mr. Mansell Moullin, the well-known surgeon and suffragist, performed an operation on Friday, but Miss Davison passed away on Sunday, June 8, without having recovered consciousness. Her bed was decorated with the purple, green and white of the Women's Social and Political Union, of which she was so daring a member. Miss Davison was born at Blackheath, but lived at Long-horsely, Northumberland, and was a B.A. (Honours) of London University. She carried out many militant protests, and suffered frequent imprisonment since 1909 for obstruction, window-breaking, pillar-box raids, &c.; she hunger-struck and was forcibly fed. When in prison at Manchester, she barricaded her cell and a hose was turned on her; she brought a case against the visiting magistrates for this ill-treatment and won it, January, 1910. Three times she hid in the House of Commons, and took part in many deputations and demonstrations. Her indomitable courage, moral and physical, was unquenchable, and it was given fully and devotedly to the Cause she held sacred. We add to the touching words of our President in her "Pleader," and to the insight of G. Colmore in her arresting article "Unbalanced," the following extract from the tributes of reverence and love which have reached us. It is written by her friend, Miss L. Dixon:—

"Absolute fearlessness stood out more strongly than aught else in Emily Davison's character. . . . Although her many militant deeds have won for her world-wide fame, her constitutional work should not be minimised. Her power with the pen was great, and she was an effective speaker. . . . When the long struggle for woman's enfranchisement is won, the name of our beloved friend, Emily Wilding Davison, will stand out Heroine, worthy indeed of all honour and admiration, in that she was ready and willing to make the supreme sacrifice of life itself for the Cause she loved and for which she worked so strenuously."



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TAX RESISTANCE.

Deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

On Tuesday, June 10, at 11 a.m., a deputation from the Women's Tax Resistance League waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the Treasury. The subject placed before him was the taxation of married women and the injustice arising out of the anomalies in the present law and its administration. The members of the deputation were Miss Lena Ashwell, Mrs. Cecil Chapman, Mrs. Louis Fagan, Miss Amy Hicks, M.A., Mrs. Kineton Parkes, Mrs. Ayres Purdie, A.L.A.A., and Dr. Elizabeth Wilks. Mr. Lloyd George admitted the truth of the case as placed before him, and stated that his only excuse for existing conditions was that thereby one and a-half millions were annually collected for the inland revenue. A fuller report will appear next week.

"There ain't going to be no sale!"

We have received the following interesting letter from Mrs. Kineton Parkes, secretary of the Women's Tax Resistance League, which we publish with pleasure and cry "bravo!"

Dear Editor,—In thanking you for the space you so kindly gave in last week's issue to "Tax Resistance," I want to call your attention to further news which I know will greatly interest your readers. In your closing paragraph, re "Hastings Anti-Suffrage Riot," you venture to hope that we may be better looked after when we do hold the sale—I feel inclined to reply in the language of Phil May's boy with the apple: "There ain't going to be no core" (otherwise sale). Some person (or persons) unknown, fearing the ability of those in authority to keep order in the town of Hastings, has paid the taxes of the three ladies who were resisting—Mrs. Darent Harrison, Miss Hogg and Miss Thomas—amounting to several pounds! This is indeed a triumph! The tax resisters have been able to live up to their principles on this occasion, making their protest against taxation without representation by a refusal to pay, and not a penny of their money has gone to the coffers of the Government. In the case of Mrs. Darent Harrison, great publicity has been given to the protest of voteless women because a warrant had to be issued to break into her house which had been barricaded against the entrance of the tax collector, and adorned for weeks with Tax Resistance posters.

At Streatham.

Miss Helen Smith, one of our enthusiastic Streatham members, has refused payment of her taxes. Her goods are to be sold at Phillip's Auction Rooms, High-road, Balham, at 6.45 p.m., on Friday, June 13, when we hope a large contingent of members from the district will attend and give their support.

Novelist Resists at Glasgow.

At Glasgow Justices of the Peace Court, Glasgow, on May 23, Miss Madge Little, a novelist, was charged with having refused to pay the tax for her dog. She admitted the charge, stating that her reason was to make a protest against the action of the Government in refusing to grant women a voice in the making of the laws. Her position, she maintained, was more logical and more constitutional than that of a democratic Government which imposed taxes on women who had no votes. The J.P.s listened courteously to the pretty young author's protest, but said that they were unable to interfere with the course of the law. A fine of 20s. was imposed, and fourteen days allowed for payment. Miss Madge Little, who is both clever and courageous, made her debut as a novelist two years ago.

London Graduates' Resolution.

At a general meeting of the London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage, held on Thursday, May 22, the following resolution was carried *nem. con.*:

"That passive resistance to taxes is a right and proper form of individual protest on the part of those who are debarred by sex alone from exercising the Parliamentary franchise."

"NOT TIRED: GO ON!"

As there are villages in Suffolk where Suffrage meetings are unknown, a few members of the Ipswich Branch determined to begin a crusade by holding a meeting at the pretty little village of Bucklesham last Friday, having a few days before distributed leaflets. We met with a kind reception, and tea was offered to us by one of the villagers. Another woman said, in strong Suffolk dialect, "I don't hold with 'em; just look at the things they do; not but what I think I ought to have a vote, and could use it as well or better than the men." Another refused to touch our leaflets as she had a weak heart. We persuaded her that Votes for Women would be quite likely to prove a tonic, and she accepted the papers.

At 7.30 p.m., when the meeting began, a good number of labourers assembled, but the fair sex seemed inclined to remain at a distance. We had a good hearing, and our audience showed by their remarks that they took an intelligent interest in the subject. They appreciated the logic of tax-resistance and the argument that women needed the vote to protect their interests in the home and in the industrial world as much as men. When we had finished one man said, "We ain't tired yet; go on." We said we hoped to come again, sold THE VOTE, and rode off amid the good wishes of our audience.

Woolpit and Wetherden.

Our Woolpit Group has been most pleased to welcome Miss Trott, who has done her utmost to tune us up again to concert

AN OPEN LETTER TO THEIR MAJESTIES KING GEORGE V. AND QUEEN MARY.

The President and Committee of the Women Writers' Suffrage League have sent the following open letter to Their Majesties:—

To
THEIR MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTIES
KING GEORGE AND QUEEN MARY.
May it Please YOUR MAJESTIES,

We, the undersigned, women engaged in the art of literature, who are thus, both by temperament and profession, best fitted to set down the facts of the life it is our business to study, do most humbly entreat of YOUR MAJESTIES to reconsider the true bearing of the Act of Parliament recently passed under the title "Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill-health) Bill."

SIRE AND MADAM! We humbly point out that this Act is unworthy YOUR MAJESTIES' Houses of Parliament. It is at once cruel and ineffectual. Cruel because it legalises slow torture for minor offences; ineffectual because the ill-health which will be induced by the first instalment of that slow torture, and which will go on increasing with every fresh instalment must inevitably prevent the due serving of the sentence. A woman, may it please YOUR MAJESTIES, may be assigned three years' penal servitude, and, if she hunger-strike for five days out of every two months—an estimate erring on the side of law—at the end of six-and-thirty years the Cat will still be playing with the Mouse. At what cost to the prestige and pocket of YOUR MAJESTIES' Government it is for that Government to say.

Therefore, may it please YOUR MAJESTIES, we humbly entreat that it be removed from the Statute-book.

(Signed) FLORA ANNIE STEEL, President.
ANNESLEY KENEALY.
EDITH WALDEMAR LEVERTON.
C. ROMANNE-JAMES.
BEATRICE HARRADEN.
E. KENTOUL ESLER.
M. W. NEVINSON, Hon. Treasurer.
BESSIE HATTON, Hon. Secretary.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

The Rev. F. M. Green was the principal speaker at our weekly meeting at the Portman Rooms on June 4, and gave an interesting address on "The Place of Suffrage in the Woman's Movement." He insisted that the Church should deal with all problems affecting women, even though their solution requires the intervention of legislation. Women have been roused to struggle for the vote because of such problems as sweating and the White Slave traffic; the aim of the whole movement is to secure unrestricted opportunities for self-development and social service for women, who refuse to recognise male dominance rooted in force. The vote is the symbol of sex equality, and is needed to ensure equal opportunities. "Better a half-qualified woman than an Oxford Don as an inspector of children's schools," said Mr. Green, in referring to the handicap of women in Civil Service.

Of Special Interest.—Mrs. Harvey has most kindly arranged to give a dramatised form of "Hiawatha" on Monday, October 13, on behalf of THE VOTE, if sufficient support is guaranteed. Will members please keep the date in mind and intimate to Headquarters whether they expect to be able to attend?

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Comfortable Walking Shoe of Hygienic shape in black glaze kid, 14/6, post free.

pitch. On June 3, we held an open-air meeting in Woolpit-street, which attracted a large audience. After a short address from Miss Trott, Mrs. Tippett spoke, and was given a most attentive hearing, even those who came to mock remaining to listen. We were most cheered, as we feared the extreme militants had given "the anti's" in our district a chance amongst those who do not understand we are not all window smashers, &c. Of course, there were a few cat calls from one or two of the usual silly hooligan element, and our broadminded Vicar kindly had the bells ringing, which considerably added to the festive nature of our welcome. We left amidst hearty cheering from the crowd and wishes for more meetings. THE VOTE sold like "hot cakes," and one purchaser remarked that she had no idea there was "so much behind the woman's movement."

On June 4, an evening meeting was held at Wetherden, and one could not but notice that Mrs. Tippett's influence, in this pretty little village where she resides, showed itself through the earnest attention of the listeners (mostly women), and the nodding of heads to each other in agreement with many of her remarks. The male element mostly came from their gardening with spades or forks in their hands, thus adding considerably to the picturesqueness of the scene and the wide interest aroused. When one adds one could almost have heard the proverbial pin drop, there is no need to say more as to the success of the meeting.

Stowmarket.

On June 5, a lively meeting took place in the Market-square, Stowmarket. Owing to a strike at the Explosive Works, the little town was in a state of great excitement, and at first Mrs. Tippett could hardly obtain a hearing. But by good humour, patience, and, I may say, personal magnetism, she gained the interested attention of the crowd. She made one excellent point by asking the strikers if they obtained the redress of their grievances by "quiet and gentlemanly" behaviour. The answer was a roar of "No's!" This "went home" when she added, "Neither did we."

I add the following from *The East Anglian Daily Times*, June 5:—

"Mrs. Tippett, the Suffragette novelist, has offered to take and keep four children at her country residence in Wetherden so long as the (Stowmarket) strike lasts."

IN THE PARKS.

Hyde Park

A large and most kindly disposed audience gathered round the Women's Freedom League van in Hyde Park on June 1 at noon for the usual Sunday morning meeting. Mrs. Cobden-Saunders presided, and made an effective appeal on behalf of the League, getting a capital reception. Miss Boyle followed, also securing an excellent hearing, the audience remaining without interruption to the conclusion of a fairly lengthy address. No signs of hostility were manifested, and those who disagreed with the speaker asked their questions, and put their point of view in an entirely courteous fashion.

Frequent showers did not deter large crowds from gathering in Hyde Park on June 8 round the Women's Freedom League platform. According to an Anti-Suffrage speaker, public opinion is all on his side; nevertheless, on Mrs. Despard's appearance he lost his audience *en masse!* Miss Eunice Murray assured us of the increasing interest in the movement at any rate in Scotland. The murmur which ran through the crowd at the first mention of that incident, since fatal to one in the ranks of our sister society, was quickly quelled by the stern yet gentle words of our President, who said she hoped the case of Miss Davison would kindle a flame in the souls of men which would end the present awful situation. We heard of the great gathering of Suffragists from all parts of the world being held at Budapest this month; and hard indeed must have been the hearts to withstand the tales of suffering working women and girls in the Midlands. Interest increased throughout, and solid proof was given when the same "Anti" urging that a vote should be taken, found that only seven out of a huge crowd disagreed with our demands, and a police sergeant declared the meeting to be "the best held this year in Hyde Park."

Regent's Park.

The meeting held by the Mid-London Branch in Regent's Park last Sunday morning was a great success. For more than an hour Miss Boyle spoke on the need for Woman Suffrage, the policy of the Women's Freedom League, and the reasons for Militant action. She referred with much feeling to Miss Davison's act of heroism, and her tribute of honour and respect was received with expressions of sympathy by the audience. The chair was taken by Miss F. A. Underwood.

Brockwell Park.

A very successful meeting was held in Brockwell Park on Sunday, June 1, Mrs. Mustard being the speaker. Miss St. Clair took the chair, and stated the position of the Women's Freedom League. Mrs. Mustard described the terrible disabilities under which women suffer at present, and showed how these could be remedied and the whole community benefited by giving women the vote. Mrs. Mustard further explained the policy of the League, and justified our militancy in the matters of Tax Resistance, the holding of public meetings, and defiance of the Insurance Act. The meeting was very orderly and attentive, only a few noisy youths providing the usual chorus.

WILLIAM OWEN

WESTBOURNE GROVE, W.

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JUNE 16 & following days.

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WONDERFUL BARGAINS.

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BRANCH NOTES.

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

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

LONDON.—Croydon.—Office: 32A, The Arcade, High-street.

We thank our Wallington members for their activities, which resulted in such an excellent meeting on May 30 at the Carshalton Public Hall. The speeches by Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Webb were warmly appreciated. New members were added to our Branch. Miss Cooke, 38, Lansdowne-road, will be pleased to receive goods for her stall at the meeting on June 12 at the Lecture Room, Public Hall. A well-attended open-air meeting was held at Thornton-heath Clock, on Friday, May 30, when Miss Boyle made a long and telling speech. At the Branch meeting on June 2 it was decided to arrange, if possible, a garden social to raise funds for our contribution to the Birthday Fund. The Jumble Sale on June 3 produced quite satisfactory results, and thanks are due to those members and friends who managed it. Fair results were gained at the second Cake and Candy Sale on June 5; it is hoped that all members will remember the next one early in July, and send contributions or make purchases. At the weekly open-air meeting at Thornton-heath Mrs. Tanner greatly interested a large crowd. Mrs. Sanders has kindly promised to receive flowers or contributions for the purchase of flowers, for the Croydon Branch, for the Suffrage Flower Day, July 5. Will everyone promise some help? Postcards with such promises may be sent to Mrs. Sanders at the local office. Please note that meetings are advertised under "Forthcoming Events" in THE VOTE (near the end).

Hackney.

A most delightful and interesting afternoon was spent by all who attended Mrs. Wheatley's drawing-room meeting on June 4, when we had the pleasure of Mrs. Despard's company. In her speech she referred to the spiritual significance of the woman's movement and its place in evolution. Mrs. Wheatley spoke of the world-wide character of the movement and the many societies who, differing in methods, worked for one goal. Literature, including copies of Mrs. Despard's latest book, "Theosophy and the Women's Movement," and THE VOTE, sold well, and a substantial collection was taken. Preliminary notice is herewith given of a garden party at the end of June. Gifts and donations in money or kind will be greatly welcomed.

Highbury.

We have had two very successful open-air meetings. At the first, Mrs. Mustard interested a large and appreciative audience for nearly two hours by showing how necessary it is for both men and women that justice should be granted to one-half of the human race. She also explained the policy of the Women's Freedom League, and caused much amusement by remarking that the W.F.L. had never paid, and did not intend to pay, the Insurance levies. On June 5, Miss Normanton made an excellent speech to an equally sympathetic crowd. Her very telling remarks about the reform necessary in the education of the nation's children were listened to with great attention.

Kensington.

Our first open-air meeting this year was an unqualified success. The chair was taken by Mrs. J. Walker, who answered some of the objections to our claim to the vote. The speaker was Miss E. J. Read, to whom a very large and attentive crowd listened for over an hour. There was very little heckling and no rowdiness; many people stayed during the whole meeting and showed by their attention and the intelligent questions asked—and very ably answered by the speaker—that they were beginning to understand something of the meaning of our movement.

Mid-London.

On Friday, June 20, we are to have a "Bohemian Evening" at 150, Finchley-road—Miss Julie Huntsman's studio, which she has very kindly promised to lend for the occasion. She will also add to the enjoyment of the evening by reciting; and Mr. Harrison Hill (engagements permitting) will give us some of his very entertaining sketches at the piano. With a dancer, a pianist, a violinist, a singer, and a well-known palmist, there ought not to be a dull minute during the evening. Details will be announced in next week's VOTE. Tickets may be obtained at 1, Robert-street. Will all members willing to help as stewards or with the refreshments send their names to the hon. secretary? Many will be required. The proceeds of this entertainment are to be added to the Mid-London Branch contribution to the Birthday Fund.

Stamford-hill and Tottenham.

A satisfactory meeting was held at the hall in Ravensdale-road on Monday evening, at which Miss Munro and Mrs. Wheatley made convincing speeches to an attentive and interested audience. We hope soon to arrange another meeting in Tottenham. The Tottenham Jumble Sale last Saturday was quite a success and realised a helpful sum.

West Hampstead.

At our open-air meeting in West End-lane on May 27, Miss Normanton interested a large crowd for two hours. Branch members are urgently requested to attend the open-air meetings on Tuesday evenings. Up to the present only one member besides the secretary has put in an appearance.

PROVINCES.—Aintree.

The meeting held in Aintree Institute on Tuesday evening was addressed by Miss Marks, of the W.S.P.U. Mrs. McGuffie, who chaired, introduced the speaker as one of the pioneers of the militant movement in Liverpool, and contrasted the interest taken in the question now with the apathy which existed before militancy was adopted. Miss Marks gave a rapid survey of the position of woman from pre-

historic times, maintaining that as civilisation advanced the condition of woman became less free. The only way in which she could regain her social and economic independence was by means of the vote. A proposal to devote the collection to *The Daily Herald* Fund was carried unanimously. Mr. McGuffie generously offered to defray the expenses of the meeting.

Brighton and Hove.

Mrs. Gerlach, who is tax-resisting and whose furniture is stored, still receives threatening letters, but nothing is done.

Burnage.

Our last Branch meeting was held in the garden of the hon. secretary—a very pleasant change—to be continued, through her kindness, each Monday evening during the summer. Arrangements were made for the visits of Miss Munro and Mrs. Tippet.

Chester and Helsby.

On Wednesday last two very successful meetings were held at Chester and Helsby. The Helsby meeting took the form of an "At Home" in the Recreation Hall, and was organised and financed by the hostesses, Mrs. Crossland Taylor and Mrs. R. Howroyd. An excellent platform of speakers had been secured representing three societies—for our W.F.L. was Miss Anna Munro, who presided; for the Men's League Mr. Laurence Housman; and for the Church League Rev. C. Hinscliff, whose interesting and inspiring speeches were greatly appreciated by a good audience, which included people from Westmoreland, who came expressly to hear the speakers. Later in the evening at the Masonic Hall, a public meeting, described by the local Press (in two columns) as successful and interesting, was held. Our president, Mrs. H. F. Brown, who organised and bore the main expense of the meeting, was in the chair, and managed very capably to deal with an opponent at question time *without having him turned out*. Miss Munro spoke splendidly in defence of free speech, relating some of her recent experiences in fighting for this right. Then followed a strong defence of militancy, with a clear definition of our W.F.L. policy of opposition to bad law, &c., as distinct from destruction of property. The greater part of the audience lingered on after the close, about 10 p.m., and judging from the many questions asked, the names given as supporters or members, the large quantity of VOTES and literature sold, the good collection taken, and the enthusiasm of our own various members who helped with the meeting, it is obvious that our Cause is growing in Chester and district.

Liverpool.

By kind invitation of Mrs. Robson and Miss Jackson there was a good gathering of ladies and gentlemen at 37, Ivanhoe-rd., Liverpool, S., on May 29, to hear Miss Munro, who outlined the aims and policy of the Women's Freedom League, and included a graphic description of recent happenings in London. The guests were intensely interested, and some joined the W.F.L. Others asked to be invited again, as they wished to know more of the League and its doings. Mrs. Robson and Miss Jackson purpose continuing these gatherings, and any members who have friends residing in the south end of Liverpool are invited to communicate with Mrs. Robson at the above address, in order that these may be included in future invitations.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

In spite of the warm weather, the whist drive in aid of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund was a great success. Our thanks are due to Miss Mottershall for the use of her rooms, and for providing the refreshments. Also to the members and friends who gave the prizes. A series of open-air meetings will be held shortly on Southsea-common, and will be announced in THE VOTE. Members and friends had a most enjoyable time at the picnic at Sheepwash Farm on Wednesday, June 4. A good number turned up and it was unanimously decided to have another ramble in the near future.

South Shields.

A meeting was held on May 28, in the Victoria Hall, when Miss Eunice Murray spoke convincingly to a crowded and most appreciative audience on "The Necessity of Demanding a Government Measure for Women's Suffrage and of Protesting Against the Infringement of Constitutional Liberties." When the resolution was submitted the audience signified their approval in a most emphatic manner. Our very good friend, the Rev. J. Woods, fulfilled the duties of the chair in his inimitable manner. We wish all Branches had the support of so worthy and excellent an exponent of our Cause. Miss Elphick, in a charming little speech, appealed for new members, and at the close of the meeting names were handed in. Our warmest thanks are offered to Mrs. and Miss Fenwick for decorating the hall, and to all who in any way contributed to the success of the meeting. Will members please note that the next Branch meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 18, at Hepscott-terrace, at 7 p.m., when we shall have a discussion on "Domestic Apprenticeship." Please bring friends.

Sanderland.

We held a most successful meeting on May 29, at St. Peter's Hall, Green-street. Miss Eunice Murray, of Scotland, was the speaker, and everyone enjoyed her very racy address. The Rev. J. Rook, of Whitley Bay, presided; to him, to Miss Elphick, who organised the meeting, and to Miss Murray our sincerest thanks are given.

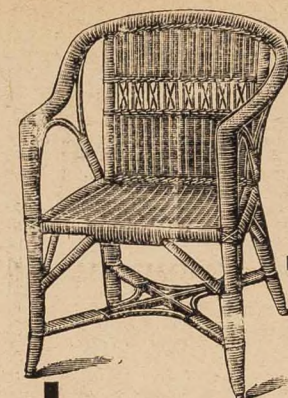
SCOTLAND.—Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.

The best open-air meeting of the present series, so far, was that addressed on Wednesday evening by Miss Nannie Brown and Miss A. B. Jack. Both speeches were listened to with great attention, and the one interrupter (he was not quite sober) was hissed by the crowd. The collection and the sale of THE VOTE were both good. Thanks to the exertions of Mrs. Thomson, Miss Wood, and other helpers, our new premises are now in order. A pretty scheme of decoration in the colours has been carried out. The opening sale has been fixed for June 28, when Councillor Crawford has kindly promised to preside. Flowers, fruit, produce, soft goods, cakes, sweets, "white elephants," books, china—anything and everything saleable will be gladly received. We must make this sale a great success.

Glasgow.—Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's-road.

The Glasgow Council met on Thursday, June 5, when arrangements were made for the summer work. Mrs. Despard has kindly con-

(Continued on page 118.)



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Furniture has a style and
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Fri., June 13.—THORNTON HEATH CLOCK, 7.45. *Speaker:* Miss Irene Miller. Meeting at 1, ROBERT-STREET, Adelphi, W.C., 8 p.m. Health Food Talk by Captain Carey. Admission free.

Sun., June 15.—HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Novinson and Mrs. Tippett. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Miss Munro. BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. Miss Rogers and Mr. Morrison.

Tues., June 17.—CORNER OF BLACKBURN-ROAD, West End-lane (close by W. Hampstead Station). *Speaker:* Mrs. Tippett. CORNER OF ST. LUKE'S-ROAD, Clapham, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Mr. Simpson.

Wed., June 18.—CANTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. *Speakers:* J. Cameron Grant, on "The Correlation of Sex," and Miss Abram, D.Sc., F.R.Hist.S., on "Englishwomen in the Later Middle Ages."

Thurs., June 19.—HIGHBURY CORNER, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Read.

Fri., June 20.—THORNTON HEATH CLOCK, 7.45 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Normanton.

Fri., June 20.—Bohemian Evening, at 150, FINCHLEY-ROAD (by kind permission of Miss Julie Huntsman), 8.11 p.m. Tickets, 2s. (including refreshments), from 1, Robert-street. For further particulars see Mid-London Branch Notes, page 116.

Sun., June 22.—HYDE PARK, noon. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mr. Mustard, Mr. Laurence Housman, and Miss E. Rogers. BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. *Speaker:* Miss Read. *Chair:* Miss Underwood. KINGSTON-ON-THAMES. *Speaker:* Miss Constance Andrews. Subject: "The Inner Meaning of the Women's Movement."

Mon., June 23.—CORNER OF BLENHEIM-CRESCENT AND PORTOBELLO-ROAD, Kensington, 8 p.m.

Tues., June 24.—CORNER OF ST. LUKE'S-ROAD, Clapham, 8 p.m. CORNER OF BLACKBURN-ROAD, West End-lane (close W. Hampstead Station), 8.15 p.m.

Wed., June 25.—CANTON HALL, Public Meeting. Rev. W. Moritz Weston on "The Economic Independence of Women in Relation to the Marriage Question," and others, 3.30.

Thurs., June 26.—CROYDON, "At Home," Miss Underwood, 3.30 p.m. HIGHBURY CORNER, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Tanner.

Fri., June 27.—THORNTON HEATH CLOCK, 7.45 p.m. *Speaker:* Mr. Simpson.

Sun., June 29.—HYDE PARK, noon. Miss Boyle, Miss Holmes. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Hyde and Miss Eunice Murray.

Mon., June 30.—Portman Rooms, Baker-street, W. (entrance in Dorset-street). Lecture by Mrs. C. Perkins Gilman on "The Real Devil" 8 p.m. *Chair:* Miss Nina Boyle. Tickets 2s. 6d. (numbered and reserved) and 1s. (reserved) from W.F.L. office.

Wed., July 2.—CANTON HALL, Public Meeting. Dr. Josiah Oldfield, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.L., on "Food, Fasting and Freedom," 3.30.

Sat., July 5.—Suffrage Flower Day, 9 a.m.—7 p.m. Particulars from W.F.L. 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

Sun., July 6.—HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Mustard.

Sun., July 13.—ADULT SCHOOL, Grove Mission, Clapton, 9 a.m. Mrs. Mustard on "Woman and Citizenship."

PROVINCES.

Sat., June 14.—Chester. Market-square, 11 a.m. VOTE selling.

Mon., June 16.—Gravessend. 4, The Grove, Branch Business Meeting, 8 p.m. Burnage. 33, South-avenue, 8 p.m., Branch Meeting.

Wed., June 18.—South Shields. 13, Hepscott-terrace. Branch Meeting. Discussion on "Domestic Apprenticeship," 7 p.m.

Thurs., June 19.—Burnage. "At Home." *Speaker:* Miss Munro and Mrs. Tippett.

Sat., June 21.—Liverpool. 15, Chatsworth-avenue, Aintree, Cake and Candy Sale, 3-6 p.m.

Mon., June 23.—Burnage. 33, South-avenue, 8 p.m., Branch Meeting.

Mon., June 30.—Burnage. 33, South-avenue, 8 p.m., Branch Meeting.

SCOTLAND.

Sat., June 28.—Edinburgh. 90, Lothian-road, New Suffrage Shop, Opening Sale. Councillor Crawford will preside.

BRANCH NOTES (Continued from page 117)

sented to let us have her caravan for July. The towns and villages of Forfarshire are to be visited, and meetings held each day. We have already arranged for workers for the caravan, but more are wanted for the Clyde campaign in July and August. Will volunteers please send their names to the shop? The headquarters will be at Rothsay and meetings will also be held at Dumoon. We shall be glad to hear of members spending their holidays at either of these places, and urge them to come and help. The Branch meeting was held after the Council, when an article on the White Slave Traffic was read and discussed. The Branch does not meet again until September.

WALES.—Cardiff.

On May 29 the Branch held a public meeting in the Windsor-place Congregational Schoolroom. The Rev. Oliver Bowen, B.A., presided, and the Hon. Mrs. Henley gave an address dealing with the present economic position of women. Mrs. Keating Hill drew attention to the fact that the Government was too busy to introduce legislation for women, but could find time to bring in a Bill to relieve Sir Stuart Samuel of the penalties incurred by illegal voting in the House.

SPLENDID value in Louis Lorgnettes, from 15s., smart and distinctive appearance. Our speciality, "Rigite" eyeglasses and spectacles, combine the elegance and lightness of rimless with the strength and rigidity of rimmed glasses at 10s. 6d. per pair. The latest production in optical workmanship. Sight tested and advice given gratis to readers of THE VOTE. Large and varied stock of chatelaine cases and opera-glasses.

THE FREE PRESS!

Do you know I am a woman?
When I think I must speak.

To find consolation in the midst of desolation makes atonement to the heart for the repeated insults offered to women by males in power. When I set my fancies free, and think of the great spiritual force which is moving the world to-day, and coming on with irresistible power like the flood tide; when I think of the futile efforts of puny man to sweep it back, using physical force against spiritual force, using tyranny to enforce feeble and illogical reasoning, based on vested interest; when I think of the downfall of tyranny which is so near at hand; then I thrill with expectant hope, and find consolation—and my anger evaporates.

The question of State Registration of trained nurses—which has long since reached the field of practical politics—is one of fundamental importance to the public, and the public have the right to hear about it. The movement has been promoted by women, that is why the "Free Press," the "Public Educator," refuses space in its columns to its advocates! That is obvious enough. Technically, there are only three "learned professions," of which medicine is one. The profession of nursing being an *Aid Society* to that of medicine, the conclusion following these premisses *must be*—if we reason logically—that nurses must be learned, too. It follows, therefore, "as the night the day," that a universal standard of professional education must be set up. The primary object of this movement for legal status for nurses is education—higher education. It may be objected, why higher? Won't the present system do? Seeing that system and chaos, being opposites, cannot co-exist, there is no system. For lack of it, every hospital in the land is a law unto itself, and a self-constituted school of nursing. The remedy is simple enough, dethrone chaos and set up cosmos; in other words, abolish autocracy and establish democracy. The only way to achieve this is by appointing a *legalised central authority*, which shall control all professional matters, ethical and educational. The government of the nursing profession should be established on the same lines as the medical profession, being two parts, the greater and the lesser, of a whole.

The next point is that this movement is an impersonal one, whereas the objections of our opponents are personal and self-interested. It cannot be too strongly insisted that the matter is of *national importance*, as Sir Victor Horsley points out. The Earl of Crewe, in replying to a deputation in 1906, said: "If the public fully realised that the untrained nurse to-day is rampant, that she is ubiquitous, and that no power but the strong arm of the law can safeguard the help-ess sick against her, they would be less apathetic than they are."

The objections of the Hon. Sydney Holland we have heard many times. The one he trots out most frequently is, that the State registered nurse may become a moral renegade! We have not found it work that way with doctors and dentists! He objects to registrationists setting up a standard of professional education, while all the time he is setting up a standard himself—that of the London Hospital, the only one of any size which professes to train nurses in two years. The science of numbers is a very valuable factor, if rightly used, in estimating the strength of the support of a movement. Before arraying his figures against us, Mr. S. Holland should have revised his lists, deleting at least the names of those who are dead! However, the figures as they stand, show a large majority in favour of State Registration: Individuals against, 1,667; representative professional men and women, for, nearly 40,000.

These points I embodied in a letter which I sent to *The Westminster Gazette* and *The Morning Post*, in reply to male correspondents who opposed the cause. The editor of the former returned my letter, saying he could not give it space, as he intended to close the correspondence. (A few days later he reopened his columns to another male!) The latter ignored it altogether. The correspondence had reference to the deputation on State Registration to Mr. Asquith on April 28.

The attitude of the Prime Minister was that of one who talks to children who are asking for something they must not have; acknowledging at the same time that it is a subject about which he knows very little—an unjustifiable excuse—and sheltering himself behind the excuse always used for the affairs of women—"the House has not time," &c.

The result of the deputation is unsatisfactory, and indignant women, wanting to speak the truth and enlighten the public, appeal to the "Free Press," which closes its columns to them.

BEATRICE KENT,
Late night sister, Guest Hospital, Dudley.

Lowest SUMMER Prices.
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Silkstone .. 26/6 Best Nuts .. 23/6 Stove Coal .. 21/-
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OUR NEW COMPETITION. ANSWERS TO ANTIS.

We offer each week a PRIZE FOR THE BEST ANSWER to Anti-Suffrage objections. The winning answer will be published in THE VOTE.

This week's objection is:

Man's Chivalry to Woman Would Disappear.

The answer is limited to sixty words; it may be grave or gay.

RULES.

1. The competition is open to all our readers.
 2. Each answer must be accompanied by the coupon below, and give the name and address of the sender.
 3. Answers, written on one side only of the paper, must be addressed to the Editor, VOTE OFFICE, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C., the envelope marked *Prize Competition*, and must reach the VOTE OFFICE on Monday, June 23, 1913. A halfpenny stamp is sufficient if the flap of the envelope is tucked inside.
 4. Competitors may send as many answers as they like, provided each is accompanied by a coupon.
- Prize this week: "Women and Economics," by Mrs. Perkins Gilman.

COUPON.

"VOTE" PRIZE COMPETITION.

Name

Address

WOMEN ARE TOO SENTIMENTAL: Result.

The judges this week have awarded the prize to Miss Winifred St. Clair, 16, Ryde Vale-road, London, S.W. Her answer is as follows:

Aching or stifling at washtub or stove,
Hauling the scuttle of coal,
Leering in brothel or posing on stage,
Sickening in shambles for pitiful wage,
Glazing and drawing the poison-fraught breath,
Stitching for farthings mid microbes of death;
These occupations show woman's soft soul
Not sentimental.
Only to better these things at the poll
Woman is too sentimental.

ALTRINCHAM BY-ELECTION, MAY 28.—Miss Janet Heyes unfurled the W.F.L. flag on Sale bridge at the close of the poll on May 28. A large crowd gathered immediately, and though at first some slight opposition was apparent, she very soon gained the attention and sympathy of her audience. Miss Heyes spoke and answered questions for nearly two hours, and was not permitted to leave before she had promised to return a week later. The crowd cheered the speaker at the close of the meeting; copies of the leaflet, "Why Women Need the Vote," were eagerly accepted.

The SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, YORK STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.

THE CLUB has been formed for **MEN AND WOMEN** interested in the Suffrage Movement.
CONSTANT LECTURES ARRANGED.
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Light Refreshments at any time.
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