

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. VI. No. 139.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1912.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

### PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

THE REFORM BILL: VOTES FOR EVERY MAN.  
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE BY-ELECTION POLICY.  
GREETINGS FROM SWITZERLAND.  
OUR POINT OF VIEW.  
AT HEADQUARTERS.  
IRISH NOTES.

THE POLITICAL CRISIS. BY M. SLIEVE MCGOWAN.  
JULIET STRIKES. SUFFRAGE SKETCH BY WINIFRED ST. CLAIR.  
WOMEN AND UTOPIA. BY THOMAS J. HASLAM.  
HOW MEN PROTECT WOMEN.  
ALL THE WORLD OVER.  
THE PEACE MOVEMENT AND SEX WAR.

## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### A New Birthday Present—for Men.

Before the President of the Board of Education introduced the much-talked-of Votes-for-nearly-all-men-and-no-women Bill on June 17, Mr. O'Grady desired that the House should discuss the urgent matter of the Transport Workers' Strike, in which "unfortunately, many women and children are being done to death in the East-end of London," but a Bill which concerns itself entirely with men, giving them privileges for which there has been little demand, and deliberately leaving women out, was held to have precedence. So the House settled itself to listen to Mr. J. A. Pease's glowing periods on the great subject of democracy, while he completely overlooked the fact that democracy means men and women. "The real strength of the House of Commons depends," he said, "on the democracy behind Members of this House, and the views of the democracy do not depend upon the accumulation of votes in the hands of the few, but on the equal votes of the many." Indisputable fact, but only when

"the 'many' includes women as well as men. Mr. Pease could only bring himself to refer to women when he wished to impress the House by the number that would be enfranchised if the Bill were really democratic. He was delighted to promise the vote as a new coming-of-age present to practically every man, and to add that the qualifying period of six months' residence might be made during minority.

The one noteworthy feature of the debate was the strong stand by Mr. David Mason, Liberal Member for Coventry, in opposing the Bill from the first "for the simple reason that women are left out." His speech was a fine vindication of Woman Suffrage, and he did not scruple to stigmatise the Government's action with regard to women as a dishonest proceeding and declared that to talk of amendment in Committee was a delusion.

Here is our position admirably stated: "Surely, a Government bringing forward a measure of this magnitude must either stand or fall by it." Only in one way can Mr. Asquith wipe out the deliberate insult to the women of the country, and that is by putting women into the Bill. The Opposition, of course, regards the Bill as "window dressing." It is significant that *The*



THE NEW STATE ARITHMETIC BOOK. by Lloyd George





**MEN'S LEAGUE DEMONSTRATION.**

Trafalgar-square presented a very animated scene on Saturday afternoon, June 15, when the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, supported by many Suffrage Societies, held a great demonstration. About two thousand people were present, and thirty speakers were divided between five platforms. In addition to the usual three on the plinth of the Nelson Column, there was one at each corner of the Square by the steps leading down from the National Gallery. Mr. Herbert Jacobs presided, and among the speakers were Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, Mr. H. W. Nevinson, Mrs. Nevinson, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Kington Parkes, of the Women's Tax Resistance League, Mrs. Merivale Mayer, Mrs. Nourse, representing the Women's Freedom League, Dr. G. B. Clarke, Miss P. Hoey, Mr. J. Kennedy, the Rev. F. M. Green, Miss Price, Miss Lennox, and Mr. Mark Wilks.

The following resolution was put from all the platforms and carried with enthusiasm—only nine dissentients being found:—

That this meeting approves the action of the Home Office in transferring the W.S.P.U. leaders to the first class, and claims that the same privileges should be extended to other members of that society still serving their sentences. This meeting further declares that the passage of a Reform Bill which does not include women would be intolerable.

The various leagues represented were Women's Freedom League, Men's Political Union, Tax-Resistance League, Cymric Suffrage Union, New Constitutional Society, Women Writers' League, Irish League for Women's Suffrage, Men's Suffrage Federation, and the Actresses' Franchise League.

**THE PEACE MOVEMENT AND SEX WAR.**

The International Arbitration and Peace Association held its annual meeting at Caxton Hall on June 6. The principal speaker was the Baroness von Suttner, that grand old veteran of the Peace Cause whose work, "Lay Down Your Arms," is a European peace classic. Urging the necessity of a campaign against war, she said:—

"As a religion, we must preach it.  
As a science, we must teach it.  
As a conflict, we must fight it."

We will take the Baroness's advice to heart and apply it to our campaign for Votes for Women. It appeared to her, she said, that in politics "every abomination and every murder is allowed." If her assertion is ever questioned, let her come to the Suffragists. Let her hear the tales of Holloway and Birmingham, and of forcible feeding and hose-playing. Let her hear of Nurse Pitman and other martyrs to the cause of Liberty.

We of the Freedom League could tell her of the young lives whose health and strength have been freely lavished in our Cause—so freely that it is doubtful if they will ever regain their full measure of vigour and well-being. These are the "abominations" which the Liberal Government allow. Sir "Crocodile" Byles, M.P., made an urgent appeal to the women present to emulate the noble example of the Baroness and to throw themselves into the fight for peace. Crocodiles have short memories, and he may have already forgotten his efforts earlier in the Session to prevent women from exercising any really effective influence upon the peace cause, and his tardy repentance.

The President of the Association, Mr. Felix Moscheles, now over eighty, but young as ever in thought and spirit, insisted on the necessity of one woman one vote. One trusts this may have come as a mordant reminder to Sir "Crocodile" that the saints of the Suffrage societies prefer candles to acts of empty homage. Speaking to one of our members later on the subject of the prisoners in Holloway, Mr. Moscheles said: "Yes! it is horrible to think of but every door closed on them opens other doors." How earnestly we wish that Liberal politicians and those "set in authority over us," understood as well the moving spirit of our movement. But militant Suffragists know well that all politicians do not "allow abominations" without protest. The real instigators of a sex war are those who are denying political justice to women, and to them we would commend the closing words of our good friend, Mr. Keir Hardie: "The interest of the race," he said, "is not in war and strife, but in peace and harmony, and co-operation for the common good."

E. M. N. C.

**ADULT SUFFRAGE CONFERENCE.**

At the conference of the People's Suffrage Federation at the Essex Hall on June 8, Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., who presided, said that there must be a unanimous demand for the immediate introduction of the Government Reform Bill, and that all franchise anomalies should be swept away by the simple plan of manhood and womanhood suffrage. Mr. W. C. Anderson (Chairman of the Independent Labour Party), in moving a resolution to this effect, insisted that the peaceful conquest of political power was a more effective weapon than strikes, but that in dealing with all problems, especially poverty, the woman's voice as well as the man's must be heard. Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones, M.P., seconded, and the resolution was carried. Mr. W. H. Dickinson, M.P., in urging the Government "to enable the House of Commons to extend the suffrage to women during the present Parliament," said it would be impossible, after the pledges given, for the Government not to deal with the subject

this year. Mr. Philip Snowden asserted that if the Government did make a Plural Voting Bill a Government measure this Session to the exclusion of the Reform Bill, he would regard it as an act of hostility to the women's movement, and as a declaration on the part of the Government that they did not intend to provide facilities for the passing of a Women's Enfranchisement Bill during the present Parliament. He attached more importance to the enfranchisement of women than to that of four million men still unable to exercise the Parliamentary franchise. As long as women were politically and economically subject to men there must be sex conflict. It was only by removing the causes of this war that the war itself would be removed.

**IRISH NOTES.**

Miss Cummins sends the following account of an open-air Suffrage campaign in co. Cork:—

A series of open-air meetings was recently held in co. Cork. As there had been nothing in the nature of an open-air campaign in the South before, it excited great interest. Miss Gill, of the National Union of Suffrage Societies, was the principal speaker. Miss Day, Mr. G. Dorman, and Mr. T. Smith presided and spoke. Meetings were held in Skibbereen, Youghal, Glanarriff, Queenstown, Tossage, Mitchelstown, and various suburbs of Cork. At several meetings the speakers were effusively thanked by women of the crowd. In one village, where questions were asked for, a labourer said, "Sure we're all so enthusiastically in favour we haven't any questions to ask!" He was the biggest man present, and no one dared ask a question after that! In Ireland, even more than England, open-air meetings are essential if Woman Suffrage is to go forward. It is the only way to carry the work into the scattered country towns; and in the South, at any rate, the man in the street of the man in the field has not yet learnt to interrupt. Miss Day, P.F.G., hon. secretary of the Munster Women's Franchise League, has been elected by the Cork Corporation to the Advisory Committee of the Insurance Commissioners for Munster. At the election she tied with the Lord Mayor in gaining the largest number of votes.

The success of this experiment, together with the impression made by Mrs. Despard during her recent visit to Ireland, leads us to expect great things from Mrs. Despard's country campaign next September. Miss Montgomery has kindly given £2 towards the "Despard Fund" which is being raised to meet the expenses of this campaign. We should, of course, be very glad to receive further donations on the same scale, but sixpences are by no means despised by the Hon. Secretary, Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, 29, South Anne-street, Dublin.

Following upon the mass meeting on June 1 signatures are being collected to a petition in favour of the extension of the Franchise to Irish women under the Home Rule Bill. Forms for this petition are to be had at 29, South Anne-street, Dublin, and if any Irish reader of THE VOTE has not already given her signature she is earnestly requested to call or write for a form immediately. Keen interest has been aroused in the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, and an influential committee of women is about to be formed to consider amendments which might make the Bill more effective in its application to Ireland.

H. S. CHENEVIX.

**MILITANCY IN DUBLIN.**

Early in the morning on June 12, forty-two windows at the Custom House and of the General Post Office, Dublin, were smashed. Four Suffragists, Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington, Mrs. Margaret Palmer, Miss Jane and Miss Margaret Murphy, were arrested. Subsequently, four others, Miss Hilda Webb, Miss Maud Lloyd, Miss Marjory Haslar, and Miss Kathleen Houston, were taken into custody on charges of having broken windows at the police barracks and Irish Land Commission Office. They were remanded for a week at the Dublin Police-court. Bail was allowed.

Speaking at a meeting in Phoenix Park on June 15, Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington said they only broke windows that were the property of the Government. Before the militancy took place Mr. Asquith had refused to receive a deputation of the Irish Women's Franchise League, and if he persisted in this refusal he must take the consequences. The Theatre Royal would be carefully packed by a select crowd. She challenged Mr. Asquith to address a meeting of the Irish people in Phoenix Park.

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## MRS. RONALD McALLISTER'S "AT HOME."

### MR. HASLAM ON WOMEN AND UTOPIA.

The fourth of the delightful "At Homes" held at 1, Mount-street, Berkeley-square, by the kindness of our enthusiastic member, Mrs. Ronald McAllister, took place on June 14. The rooms were again crowded, late-comers finding accommodation in the hall. The welcome presence of the veteran suffragists, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Haslam, of Dublin, linked sixty years ago with to-day. Mrs. McAllister introduced the speakers, mentioning that Mr. and Mrs. Haslam were the founders of the first Irish Women's Suffrage Society in 1860; Mr. Haslam was converted by Herbert Spencer's writings; Mrs. Haslam signed the petition presented to Parliament by John Stuart Mill.

Mr. Haslam then gave a most interesting address on "Some Conditions of a Possible Utopia." The dreams of past thinkers were first touched upon, Isaiah, Plato in the "Republic," More's "Utopia," and Sidney's "Arcadia," then modern writers, ending with Morris and H. G. Wells. We should never see these dreams realised without the help of women. Mutual goodwill among all classes was a modern growth. The evils of war would continue till women had their share in the moral government of the world. Many men loved fighting for its own sake, but very few women did, however patriotic they might be. A hopeful sign was the existence of two great international associations—women suffragists and women workers. Parliament required women; there were scores of women whose presence in the House would be an unqualified blessing. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Aberdeen and Mrs. Sidney Webb should have seats in the Cabinet, said Mr. Haslam, amid loud applause.

Woman should be educated, and be in a political position to protect her children, especially her daughters. If properly represented in the House of Commons and the Cabinet she could put an end to that economic and social sin of sweating, and establish equal pay for equal work. Vital questions, continued Mr. Haslam, are knocking at the door; the multiplication of the unfit criminals, the feeble-minded and the victims of hereditary disease; qualifications for marriage to demand attention; but the existing Government and the House of Commons, from which women are shut out, are not wise enough to deal with them. The day is coming when no intelligent woman will become the mother of a depraved, imbecile or diseased child; then we shall have taken a step towards making Utopia a possibility.

Mrs. McAllister, in thanking Mr. Haslam for his inspiring words, said that men dealt with ideas, but women were the practical people who carried them out.

Miss Boyle discussed the "Money Value of the Vote." For the noble profession of motherhood, ignorance and irresponsibility were the only qualifications. The ordinary working man considered education thrown away upon his girls, who would "get married." Women, however great their service to the State, seldom obtained any public recognition. No women's names occurred in the birthday list of honours.

Mrs. Haslam drew attention to the quick use made of the new right of election of women to Municipal bodies in Ireland. Though only recently eligible, two women are now councillors, Miss Harrison (Dublin), and Dr. Mary Strangman (Waterford). Anti-suffragists and Suffragists worked in unison and returned the women candidates, no Anti-suffragist woman having been induced to stand. A hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. McAllister for her kindness and hospitality terminated the proceedings. A number of new members joined the League.

### WEDNESDAY "AT HOMES" CAXTON HALL.

The usual weekly gathering of the Women's Freedom League at the Caxton Hall took the form of an evening debate on June 12. Miss Grace Neal, of the Domestic Workers' Union, and Miss Margaret Douglas, of the Servants' Tax Resisters Defence Association, put forward their views on that part of the Insurance Act which deals with domestic servants. The Chairman, Mrs. E. M. N. Clark, in introducing the speakers, said she had read in the evening Press that 10,000 people were pledged to resist the Act. Though, as chairman, she must take an impartial attitude, she could say that, however good

this Act might be, it had been foisted upon women without their consent, and she wished to remind Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George that good government is not a substitute for self-government.

MISS GRACE NEAL moved:—"That this meeting will do its utmost to influence domestic workers not to resist the Insurance Act, as they now receive the same benefit as other workers under it." She said that she knew herself to be speaking to women who realised the necessity for equality, and who would not have domestic workers looked down upon. In boycotting and resisting other taxes women were hitting at themselves; but in resisting this particular Act they would be hitting at others—their sisters. At first she herself had been in favour of resisting it, one reason being that the unmarried mother did not receive maternity benefit, although she had paid as others. That had been altered. The Government now recognised the union as workers. They had become an Approved Society, as other Trade Unions had done. They were out for compulsory characters, regular hours, fair wages, better sleeping accommodation. In boycotting the Act people would range themselves against these, and would thus hit hard at the domestic workers, to whom a benefit of 5s. or 7s. 6d. a week was of inestimable value during time of sickness, as so often they had to help keep a mother or young brothers and sisters at home.

MISS DOUGLAS said it was strange to have Miss Neal opposing her now as they had stood together on the Albert Hall platform a short time back. Although she believed Insurance to be a good thing, her objection to the Act was that it divided the country into two classes, and imposed thrift on one class alone. It was the compulsion of the poor by the rich which she disagreed. Miss Neal had said that the servants needed to learn how to organise; this they would learn in opposing the Act. There were in the country at present a great many servants who were determined not to submit to compulsion, and a great many mistresses who were determined not to be the instruments of compulsion. Let both be compelled equally, if it was to be done at all. The Act would be a great danger to Trade Unions, for it ties down and cripples the Unions to have the Government controlling the funds. There were many weaknesses in the Act, such as that the maternity benefit for unmarried mothers comes out of the unmarried woman's fund alone. She would like to see half of it come out of the men's fund. The great objection to the Act was that it took away the liberty of the subject.

After the two speeches many questions were asked and an interesting discussion followed. One questioner desired to know how employees could pay when out of work, to which Miss Neal replied that payment need not be made at once, and that three weeks arrears were to be allowed in the year. Another question was, "What is the average wage of a domestic?" to which the chairman replied £17 16s. in London, £15 8s. in the West of England, £17 6s. in Scotland. A further question was whether the employee had not to make up the employer's payment during unemployment? Miss Neal replied that this was so, but that Friendly Societies could excuse this if they liked. A vote was taken and the non-resistance resolution was lost by a large majority. A. M.

### ALL THE WORLD OVER.

#### That Interfering Woman!

Mrs. Crane, in co-operation with doctors and the women's clubs, carried to success a State-wide campaign for the scientific regulation of slaughter-houses throughout Michigan. At its close one of the butchers who had fought the hardest put up a model abattoir, and opened it with a reception at which she was the guest of honour. She had created a market for clean meat! She went on to study federal meat-inspection, and through years of patient investigation she accumulated evidence proving that the enforcement of the law has been shamefully lax. The result of her work was put before Congress and a resolution was introduced calling for an investigation. The Department has had an appropriation of three million a year for enforcing the meat-inspection law, and it was asking for a million more. The resolution sets forth that the beef and pork packers have been systematically breaking the law; that the Department has known all about it, yet "no prosecution



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Haslam, of Dublin.

or threats of prosecution were made," nor effective measures taken to prevent the continuance of such violations of law, that a lowering of inspection standards and practices has been accomplished by secret "service announcements" not intended for the public, accompanied by warnings that employees showing or giving them to the Press would be "severely dealt with." Finally, it is charged that the annual appropriation to the Department is being "perverted from its intended purpose of protecting the public health to the promotion of the business interests of the pork and beef factories. Mrs. Crane reinforced the documentary evidence that she had gathered with a striking object lesson on the carelessness of Government inspection. She exhibited a can which was labelled as having been inspected and found to contain pure lard, broke the seal before the committee, and showed that the can was filled with sweet brown taffy!

The facts brought out in this investigation ought to convince the most bigoted Anti-suffragist that the homes of the nation are not adequately protected under the law as now enforced. Incidentally, the affair has disproved another favourite Anti-suffrage argument. We are told that so long as women have no votes, their efforts for improved laws or stricter law enforcement will be received with respect and deference because they are "non-partisan." But the champions of impure food attacked Mrs. Crane fiercely and vindictively; at the Congressional investigation her truthfulness and her motives were assailed just as sharply as if she had been a man. The interests and journals in sympathy with the packers do not for a moment assume that, because she is voteless and politically non-partisan, her evidence must have more weight than a man's.

Mrs. Crane says "Woman's special sphere is the home, and her special duty the care of children. We could not change this if we would and I know of no woman advocating the ballot who would change it if they could. But the welfare of the home and the children is closely involved with politics. Many women are still unawakened to their need of the ballot. We must reach them and awaken them through their motherhood. We must make them feel, 'While any little child suffers, my little child is not safe.' When the true home-loving woman perceives that her home is only a part of the homes of the nation and her child part of the childhood of the race, she will try to safeguard them all, and will see her need of the ballot to bring it about. That day is coming. O woman, let it not come in spite of you, but with the aid of your help and your prayers."—*The Woman's Journal*.

K. HARVEY, Hon. Head Press Department, W.F.L.

### HOW MEN PROTECT WOMEN.

[All Branch Secretaries, and other members, who have kindly sent in Press cuttings and information concerning recent police-court cases, are very warmly thanked for their valuable assistance in contributing to this column.]

#### Murderous Assault.

Mrs. Elliott, of Stratford, E., found lying dead in her house. Husband charged at West Ham. Bitterly repentant, owned it was "all through a quarrel." Did not intend to hurt her, and said she was "a good old soul and had stuck to him." Remanded. Lillian Brunton, found in her night attire in a pool of blood in the street last Good Friday. Husband said he had kicked her, and hoped she would die. Result of a quarrel. She complained he had not come home to take her out; also that she had found he had made a present to a barmaid.

#### Cruelty.

Christopher Grant, Coatbridge, for striking his wife on the mouth and knocking three teeth out. Two months.

Robert Anderson, Breconside, Moffat, convicted at Dumfries Sheriff Court of assaulting his wife. Threatened to shoot her. "kicked her about like a football," said he would kill her if he saw her talking to another man, and turned her out of doors at three in the morning. She had to walk three miles over the hills to her mother's. Had been married one week only. Objected to her manner to men guests at their house. Two months.

#### Criminal Assault.

John Holden, Pokesdown, assaulting his daughter, a married woman, staying in his house to nurse her sick mother. Had been drinking, and was using foul language before her children. She remonstrated and asked him to stop or leave the room. Struck her, threatened her, seized her by the throat, and later on wanted to fight her husband. Bound over in £10, and costs to the amount of 7s. 6d., by Bournemouth magistrates.—*Lynton Chronicle*, May 30.

#### Indecent Assault and Indecency.

Private Victor Taylor, Hants Regiment, indecently assaulting Mabel Dennis, January 19. Sentenced at Hants Assizes to four months' hard labour.

George Anderson, ex-soldier. Assaulted young girl near Scone, Perth, on April 27. Sentenced at Perth, by Sheriff Sym, to six months.

Edwin Rickman, seventeen, of Sway, convicted of assaulting Dorothy Pressy, aged six, on March 19. P.C. Jackson stated he had already had occasion to speak to prisoner about his conduct to another little girl. Had stopped his cycle and caught hold of the child on the road. Fined £1 or fourteen days. [Before same bench, two youths fined 7s. and costs for fishing in private stream.—Ed.]—*Lynton Chronicle*, April 4.

## Dainty Lingerie



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"— Lowndes-square S.W., December 2, 1911.  
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Mrs. PURDY, Manageress

## THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT.

### Meetings at Queen's Hall, June 19

Speakers: BISHOP OF OXFORD (Dr. Gore); BISHOP OF HULL; Mrs. CREIGHTON; Rev. Dr. SCOTT LIDGETT; Mr. T. EDMUND HARVEY, M.P.; Mrs. RUNCIMAN; Mrs. F. E. WILLEY, M.D.; Rev. WILLIAM TEMPLE, M.A.; Miss MAUDE ROYDEN.

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