

# VOTES FOR WOMEN.

EDITED BY FREDERICK & EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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being done. During last week a great number of important meetings were held. On page 292 we give an account of the great meeting in Manchester at the Free Trade Hall, at which Christabel Pankhurst was the principal speaker. In Leicester on January 25 Mrs. Pankhurst addressed a large meeting in the Corn Exchange. The meetings in London, in the Queen's Hall and in the St. James's Hall, have been well attended, and we are glad to be able to report that, for the first time in the campaign, a Suffrage meeting has been held in Cornwall with very satisfactory results.

### Activity of Other Societies.

The Women's Social and Political Union has not been alone in educational work; in addition to the older societies, the new Actresses' League and the Conservative Women's Franchise Association have been getting to business. On page 293 an announcement will be found of the next meeting which the Actresses' League are arranging. Meanwhile, the Men's League for Woman Suffrage is holding a meeting as we go to press, in the large Queen's Hall. Our readers will be interested in the announcement which we make in another column that Mr. Forbes Robertson will be speaking at the At Home held by the Women's Social and Political Union at the Queen's Hall on Monday next.

### Why Women Want the Vote.

Each week fresh proofs are provided of the necessity of women possessing the vote in order to obtain the redress of their grievances. At a large meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday last the inferior treatment accorded to women in the Government's dealing with the unemployed was illustrated and emphasised. We learn from Liverpool that the Educational Committee have decided to exclude from their staff all women teachers who are married. The adverse differential treatment thus accorded to women by which they are hindered from earning their living is unaccompanied by any additional provision for their maintenance.

### An Illogical Position.

We print on page 291 a letter from Lord Avebury denying the view attributed to him in our last issue that "women are not able to form an opinion on the questions of the day." He argues that his true position is that women have high and noble duties in life, and that they ought not to descend into the stormy arena of politics. Lord Avebury surely will not deny that questions of the day affecting the human race, and even those particularly affecting women, are being settled in the political arena, and though it may be possible for a select few among women to use their influence in political matters, yet for the bulk of women there can be no effective expression of their views upon these questions unless they are possessed of a vote. To allow that they can form an opinion and to deny them the right of making it effective is surely an illogical position which we should have supposed Lord Avebury would have disclaimed.

### Lord Cromer.

We are interested to learn that Lord Cromer, after spending many years of his life in dealing with a subject race in the East, has decided to throw his influence on the side of retaining the subjection of women and to strengthen the hands of the Government in resisting woman suffrage. The direct opposition of these men will make the people of this country think more than they have ever done before upon the subject, and the more they think the more certainly will they in the end come to the conclusion that this question can only finally be settled on just lines and by giving women the vote to which, by every consideration, they are entitled.

Articles and news contributed for insertion in "Votes for Women" should be sent to the Editors at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

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## DEDICATION.

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

## THE OUTLOOK.

The militant campaign of the Women's Social and Political Union for the year 1909 commenced on Monday last with the visit of the women to Downing Street and the attempt to interview the Prime Minister at the sitting of the Cabinet Council. This was the inevitable outcome of the refusal of Mr. Asquith to receive a deputation in the properly constituted manner, as he had been requested to do. In his letter, which we give on page 297, Mr. Asquith shows that he does not place the question of Woman Suffrage, at present, in the foreground of political considerations. The Women's Social and Political Union are determined that, whether he wills it or not, this question shall take the precedence of other matters. Being denied the constitutional method of stating their case, they adopted a militant one, and the "Daily Chronicle," in the extract which we quote in another column from its leading article of Tuesday, January 26, shows that this knocking at the door of No. 10, Downing Street, is symbolical of the intention of the women to obtain an entry into the political programme of the Liberal Party.

### Educational Work.

Though this has been the first step in the militant campaign of the year, readers of VOTES FOR WOMEN will not be ignorant of the fact that the educational campaign has been proceeding for some time past, and is continuing with increasing activity each week. A study of the long list of engagements given on the following page will provide some measure of the work that is



N.W.S.P.U. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Social Evening at the Portman Rooms.

The prisoners remanded for a week at Bow Street, on account of their attempt to interview Mr. Asquith at the Cabinet Council on Monday last, are expected to be present both at the At Home in the St. James's Hall, London, to-night (Thursday), from 8 to 10, and also at the social gathering, which will be held to-morrow evening (Friday) in the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, from 8 to 10. All readers of the paper and their friends are invited to these two meetings, which are quite free to the public. Mrs. Pankhurst is expected to preside at the meeting at the St. James's Hall, and the speaking will be preceded by an organ recital. At the social gathering on Friday evening there will be a varied musical entertainment organised by Miss Dugdale.

Mr. Forbes Robertson at the Queen's Hall.

On Monday next, at the weekly At Home in the Queen's Hall at 3 p.m., Mr. Forbes Robertson, the well-known actor, and a life-long supporter of woman suffrage, has kindly consented to speak. Mrs. Pankhurst and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will also address the audience. The organ will be played by Mrs. Layton, F.R.C.O. Admission is quite free to all parts of the hall, and strangers are welcome. Miss Lillah McCarthy will speak on February 8.

Throughout the Country.

Weekly At Homes are also held regularly in each of the centres of the country campaigns, particulars of which are given on pages 298-300. Among the special meetings next week is that in Brighton, at the Dome, on February 2, when the principal speaker will be Mrs. Pankhurst. A full list of the other forthcoming meetings will be found in the programme below, which our readers will notice grows longer and longer each succeeding week.

Lectures in the St. James's Hall.

On February 16, on the day of the opening of Parliament, Miss Chrystal Macmillan will lecture on "The Opening of Parliament." The chair will be taken by Christabel Pankhurst. On February 23 Miss Elizabeth Robins will give a lecture in the St. James's Hall, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will take the chair. The tickets for the lectures are 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., and can be obtained of the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

The Women's Parliament.

On February 24 a Women's Parliament will be held in the Caxton Hall, particulars of which will be given later.

Self-Denial Week.

Commencing February 27, the Union will hold a Self-Denial week similar to that successfully held in 1908. On that occasion members of the Union adopted a great many means of raising financial assistance for the Union, and it is hoped that the figure put together on that occasion will be far surpassed in 1909.

Exhibition in the Prince's Skating Rink.

All members of the Union are invited to do what is in their power to make the great Exhibition, which is to be held in the Prince's Skating Rink, Knightsbridge, from May 15 to 26, a great success. In the leading article this week Mrs. Pethick Lawrence gives an outline of the offers of help that have already come to hand, and asks that those who are willing to take a definite part will be kind enough to inform the Exhibition Secretary of how much they will be able to do to assist the Exhibition.

"On Sale" in New Oxford Street.

By arrangement with The Workers' Bookshop, 18a, New Oxford Street, the pamphlets and books published by The Woman's Press and also this paper, VOTES FOR WOMEN, are on sale at that address, and can be seen in the window every day.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

Table with columns for date, event name, location, and time. Includes events like 'Bowes Park W.S.P.U. meeting', 'Brighton, Drawing-room mtg.', 'Aberdeen, At Home, Crown Mansions', etc.

Table with columns for date, event name, location, and time. Includes events like 'Dawlish, Open-air mtg.', 'Bristol, Assembly Rooms, Stokes Croft', 'Brighton, Open-air mtg.', 'London, Portman Rooms, Manchester, At Home', etc.

IMPORTANT FUTURE EVENTS.

Table with columns for date, event name, location, and time. Includes events like 'Torquay, Bath Saloons', 'Brighton, Guildhall', 'London, St. James's Hall, Lecture', etc.

WOMEN AND THE CABINET COUNCIL.

Two ladies wearing the Suffragette colours knocked at the door, in their usual way, at No. 10, Downing Street, yesterday. There are many other causes, though they may not pursue the same literal plan, which are knocking at the same door and with the same object. Which among them are the most practically urgent? What, in other words, are the most important matters which should figure in the programme for the coming Session?—The "Daily Chronicle" leading article, January 26.

On receiving the reply of the Prime Minister on Saturday last that no useful purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation in the ordinary manner, the Women's Social and Political Union at once determined upon militant action.

As the Cabinet Council was due to be held on Monday, January 25, it was decided to send a deputation to interview the Prime Minister on that day. The previous attempts of the Women's Social and Political Union to visit Ministers sitting in Council had evidently decided the Cabinet to keep the hour of the meeting a profound secret, and no particulars could be discovered. However, the women, nothing daunted, determined to be present whatever time the meeting was held, and went to Downing Street in two detachments in the morning.

Two women arriving in a cab and learning that the meeting was not to be held until the afternoon did not persist in their endeavour to reach the door of No. 10 at that time. Mrs. Clarke and Miss Norris, however, who went on foot, were not so easily deterred; they rang the bell of the door of the residence of the Prime Minister, and, remembering the misleading statements which Mr. Asquith's butler had made in the spring of 1906, refused to accept the assurance given by Mr. Asquith's servant that the Prime Minister was not at home. They were accordingly removed by police, but returned to their position and were finally taken into custody.

Meanwhile, the Women's Social and Political Union had learned that three o'clock was the appointed hour for the Cabinet Council, and a further deputation of three women—Miss Douglas Smith, Miss Dallas, and Mrs. Satterley—went in a cab to Downing Street, and, passing the cordon of police, were admitted into the hall of No. 10 itself. Miss Douglas Smith proceeded some way and was very nearly successful in entering the Council Chamber where the Cabinet were meeting. All three were arrested and taken to the police station.

At Bow Street.

The cases came up before Mr. Marsham, the sitting magistrate at Bow Street, later in the day. The first two prisoners were charged with obstructing the police in the execution of their duty. The inspector gave evidence that they had been told that they could not stand in Downing Street, but that they tried to push past him, saying that they would not go away. He had informed them that the Prime Minister was not in town. This was true at the time he had made the statement, though subsequently he had arrived, and a Cabinet Council was actually being held in the course of the afternoon.

The sergeant substantiated the statement of the inspector, saying that Mrs. Clarke had used these words:—"Mr. Asquith is in town, and we must see him before the opening of Parliament. I shall not go away while there is breath in my body. You can take me if you like. I shall not go away."

The prisoners had no questions to ask of the police, but requested a week's remand in order that they might consult their friends and consider the nature of their defence. After some hesitation this was agreed to, Mr. Marsham fixing 3 o'clock on Monday, February 1, for the further hearing of the case.

After a little interval the other prisoners were brought up and charged with obstruction. The police evidence was given briefly, and a similar remand was made in their case, Mr. Muskett, for the Crown prosecution, saying that as two of the prisoners had obtained remand he thought it would be the best thing that this procedure should be followed in the case of the other women.

All the other prisoners were liberated on £10 bail on their own recognisances that they would not act in a similar manner during the intervening week.

OUR POST BOX.

Lord Avebury and Votes for Women.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Sir,—I have never expressed the opinion which you attribute to me—that women "are not able to form an opinion on the questions of the day." My opinion is that they have high and noble duties in life, and I am not satisfied that the majority wish to descend into the stormy arena of politics, or that they would be wise to do so.—Yours, etc., AVEBURY.

The Hon. Treasurer of the N.W.S.P.U. has received the following letter:—

"Dear Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.—As I am financially in much the same position as the girl whose offer of 1s. a week for the year you read out at last Monday's meeting, at which I was stewarding, I should like to join with her in promising 1s. a week towards an organiser for this year, and hope that others will join in with us. I think I had better pay monthly, and, therefore, have pleasure in forwarding a P.O. for 4s. to cover the period from January 1 to 28.—Sincerely yours, J. F.

FLOWERS AT HOLLOWAY.

Our readers will remember that Mrs. Pankhurst was the recipient, on the occasion of the presentation at Queen's Hall of a charming present in the shape of bouquets in the colours of the N.W.S.P.U., from the London unions, the flowers being taken up to the platform by the women before the ceremony began. By Mrs. Pankhurst's desire the bouquets were taken by Mrs. Drummond to Holloway Prison Infirmary, and those who have been to Holloway will know the pleasure with which they were received. It is not often that flowers are seen there, and it was Mrs. Pankhurst's wish that the patients should share her pleasure in such beautiful gifts.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

Last week I had a letter from a woman whose sole income is that which she earns herself. She has others dependent upon her. She felt grieved at heart that she could not give more financial support to this movement. But she had seen my appeal for workers, and she felt that she could give 1s. a week for the year 1909 towards the salary of a new organiser. "I am sure," she wrote, "thirty-nine other members similarly placed will gladly come forward to guarantee a like sum." Since that generous offer was made others have taken up the idea, and twenty shillings every week are already promised. That is half the necessary sum. I know that the rest will come, and the Committee is now considering the appointment of another organiser to the staff. Some people are under the delusion that this Union is supported by the wealthy classes. That is not so. It is supported by women who understand "sympathy" to mean service and self-sacrifice.

E. P. L.

Contributions to the £50,000 Fund.

Table with columns for date, name, amount, and total. Includes entries like 'January 20 to January 26', 'Already acknowledged', 'Miss Hanner', 'Mrs. M. Wilcock', etc.





Reproduced from the Manchester Sunday Chronicle.

WOMEN CARRYING BANNERS ADVERTISING THE MEETING.

## CHRISTABEL PANKHURST AT MANCHESTER.

A crowded welcome was given to Christabel Pankhurst in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on Tuesday evening, January 19. Miss Mary Gawthorpe presided, and Mrs. Scott, the first secretary of the Women's Social and Political Union when it was formed in Manchester, was also on the platform.

Miss Gawthorpe moved the following resolution:—  
That this meeting of Manchester men and women calls on the Government to pledge itself, in the forthcoming King's Speech, to introduce a Bill which will enfranchise duly qualified women this Session.

### No More "Side-tracking."

In moving this resolution, Miss Gawthorpe advised women to be "side-tracked" no longer; they had been side-tracked for forty years over this question. The policy of the National Women's Social and Political Union was not to fight against the rank-and-file politicians; they had nothing to do with them. What they were concerned with was the Government in power, and that was the whole secret of the success of that policy as originally thought out. They knew what they wanted. They said to the present Government: If you can feel so strongly as you say you feel about freedom in Turkey and Persia, you ought to feel something for the freedom of the women of this country. (Applause.) It was about time that the Government cleaned its own political door-step. So long as women were without the vote just so long would the children cry for bread, and just so long would a beneficent Government come along and say: "They ask for bread; give them fire-guards." (Laughter.)

### Effect of Militancy.

Miss Christabel Pankhurst said that the militant methods had been the means of losing them one thing; they had lost them all their false friends—the people who said they believed in votes for women but did not do anything to get them.

She then dealt with the two arguments—first that women must not have the vote because the men voters would be swamped, and, secondly, because they could not fight. As to the first, she pointed out that if their demands were conceded only one million and a-half women would be enfranchised, as against seven and a-half millions of men on the register. As to the second, she said there was more fight in some women than there was in some men. (Laughter.) It was important to give them an instance of men's fighting power, and she could not take a better instance than that of the Minister for War. Surely they had selected a man of courage to fill a position like that, and what did he do on Monday night at Halifax? In order that he should not meet any suffragettes he left the train four miles short of the distance he had to go and travelled the rest in a motor-car. (Laughter.) Forty policemen were inside the hall where the meeting was held, and in order to make assurance doubly sure ten policemen were hidden under the orchestra.

### The New Silencing Act.

And all that notwithstanding the fact that the speaker was protected by a new Act of Parliament which made it a punishable offence to say that one did not agree with the speaker. (A Voice: "Quite right," and laughter.)

Miss Pankhurst Beware, my friend. (Laughter.) You have broken the law this time. Put, never mind, we won't put it into force against you. If you had been a woman and I had been Mr.

Asquith, you would have been outside long ago—"Hear, hear," and laughter—and you might have been before the magistrates tomorrow morning and given a month's imprisonment or a £5 fine. That is what it is to live under a Liberal Government. You have to mind your p's and q's, but you are safe in our meeting, because we believe in fair-play, and that everybody shall have their say. (Applause.)

### Rights Against Speakers.

Miss Pankhurst defended the militant methods adopted by the Union. Would not men in similar circumstances, she asked, do the same? They did not intend to hurt a hair of Mr. Asquith's head, but they did maintain most emphatically their right to protest, and even to howl down a speaker who was not prepared to give women free speech at the ballot-box. "They talk a good deal of humbug and nonsense about the right of free speech," said Miss Pankhurst. "I deny the right of any Minister of the Crown to refuse us the right to self-expression at the ballot-box and then to come along and talk platitudes to us about their desire to promote all good causes and redress the grievances of everybody in this country. I do not know how such hypocrisy can find a hearing from men. It certainly shall not find a hearing from women so long as we can prevent it." (Applause.)

It was said (she continued) that women were not fit for the hurly-burly of public life. It was really Cabinet Ministers who were not. (Laughter.) "They want to be wrapped in cotton wool. We should put them in a hermetically sealed case and let someone else do the nation's business. They are too fragile and sensitive for the strain of political life. (Laughter.) We tried to rush the House of Commons. We might have to do it again. In rushing the House of Commons we were acting on the excellent advice of John Bright and Joseph Chamberlain. Then we are told to wait. But we know that to-morrow never comes."

They did not (Miss Pankhurst added) care the snap of a finger for the Reform Bill which was being held out to them. It was like the carrot which was dangled before the donkey to make it run further, and to have patience. It was a very suspicious circumstance that a clause relating to the enfranchisement of women, if it was inserted, must be brought in by a private member. When the Government wanted a thing carried it took the responsibility for it, and it was a very strange circumstance which might well make them feel doubtful, that the present Government would not take the responsibility of introducing women's suffrage as a part of their reform measure. Women must not rest until freedom was given alike to both halves of the human race. (Applause.)

### The Albert Hall Meeting.

At the close of Miss Pankhurst's speech a number of questions were asked and answered. Asked why women disturbed the Albert Hall meeting, she said had the message which Mr. Lloyd George then gave been satisfactory they would have given him "three times three." But it was a repetition of the unsatisfactory message of the Prime Minister, re-dished up with Mr. Lloyd George's sauce. They were perfectly right in not allowing a Cabinet Minister to go about posing as a friend of a cause he was not prepared to do anything for.

At the close of the questions the resolution was passed with a few dissentients.

## HECKLING CABINET MINISTERS.

Mr. Haldane, the Secretary of State for War, has on three occasions during the past week been subjected to questions by the women of the country, who are daily becoming more impatient of the Government's inaction in the matter of women's enfranchisement. On Tuesday (January 19), when Mr. Haldane addressed a Liberal demonstration at Lancaster, in order to guard against interruptions from Suffragettes cards were suspended in the building urging the audience, in the event of the speaker being interrupted, to keep their seats and observe silence. A woman who was travelling by the same train south after the meeting, knowing that a change had to be made at Preston, met the War Minister and his private secretary on the platform, and had several minutes' conversation with him while waiting for the train. On being asked when the Government were going to give votes to women, the War Secretary replied: "I can't say anything; you must talk to my private secretary." After speaking of the Poor-law and old age pensions, and evading the question at issue, Mr. Haldane asked, "Why don't you talk to Mr. Asquith?" "Why did you not come to the meeting?" The woman explained that the meeting was a packed one, at which Mr. Haldane appeared to be pleased. He took the first opportunity of escaping to the refreshment room, and, on emerging without his secretary, and seeing the woman still on the platform, he hurriedly retired, only to re-appear, with his secretary, just in time to catch the train. On Wednesday Mr. Haldane was the guest of the Chamber of Commerce at the Birmingham Grana Hotel, and, although no women were admitted to the banquet, a large number of women were determined to make their presence felt and to enter as strong a protest as possible under the circumstances. The police had every entrance to the hotel picketed, but by a clever stratagem the women succeeded in being inside the hotel for a considerable time, and subsequently in hoisting above the flagstaff an illuminated standard bearing the words "Votes for Women." This was greatly appreciated by the large crowd which gathered outside. The Grosvenor Room, where the banquet took place, was not only guarded, but barricaded, and Mr. Haldane, we understand, was afterwards locked in, for fear of an attack from the women. Outside, also, a police cordon protected every entrance up to a late hour, but the women surrounded his carriage and asked him when he was going to put his Liberal principles into practice. The carriage was driven swiftly away, followed by the hisses and boings of a great crowd. On arriving next morning at New Street Station, a member of the N.W.S.P.U., who was travelling to London by the same train, spoke to Mr. Haldane, who smiled and raised his hat. "Is votes for women going to be in the King's Speech?" she asked. Mr. Jesse Collings, however, threw himself between the War Secretary and the woman, and she was roughly seized and moved away. She protested that she had a perfect right to ask a simple question, but was answered, "You have no right to speak to him here." "If not here," she replied, "I shall do so on the train." A barrier of plain-clothes police was then formed round her, and she took her seat in a second-class carriage, being prevented by them from reaching the carriage containing her luggage. When the ticket-collector came, she intimated that she wished to change to a first-class carriage, but was refused. "Why?" she asked. "Because Mr. Haldane's carriage is protected on both sides by detectives." Not only was this the case, but the news that a Suffragette was on the tram had been wired to London, and at Euston a posse of police and detectives was on the arrival platform to protect the Minister for War from further questionings. Inquiring of a porter the reason for this, the W.S.P.U. member was informed, "Mr. Haldane is on this train, and there are a lot of Suffragettes on it, too!"

On Friday Mr. Haldane had once more to run the gauntlet, the occasion being the annual meeting of the British Science Guild, held at the Mansion House. Two women were present, and one of them put the question: "We have heard you; now hear us. What about votes for women?" Mr. Haldane did not reply. After the meeting the second woman went up to the platform and, introducing herself as a representative of the N.W.S.P.U., asked whether votes for women would be in the King's Speech. The Lord Mayor, hurrying up, intervened, and took Mr. Haldane away. He was again interrogated in the street as he left the Mansion House and rushed for his cab, the woman remarking, "Remember what I have said, Mr. Haldane," before she was pushed aside.

Sir Edward Grey addressed what was advertised as a "public meeting" at Coldstream on Friday. Two women, on arrival at the hall, were informed that ladies could not be admitted without tickets, and that these tickets had all been allotted. When they said there had been no mention of tickets on the advertisements, they were shown a small written notice pasted over the bill at the door, say-

ing that ladies' tickets could be had on application to a certain local Liberal. This notice, they learned, had only been there since Tuesday. Several women, residents in the place, had applied for these tickets on Thursday evening, but were told they were all gone, and these women decided to wait in the fenced enclosure outside the entrance to the hall, in case room should be found for them. The other women did the same, the door-keeper holding out a vague hope of such a possibility. Presently, however, a member of the Liberal committee came out, took the residents in, and asked the names of the two Suffragettes, who replied that they did not see what that had to do with it, and demanded to be allowed in, as the others had been, upon which the Liberal gentleman ordered them away out of the enclosure. They refused to go, but he ordered two policemen, who had appeared on the scene, to take them away. They promptly seized the women by the shoulders and hustled them forcibly into the street, afterwards keeping guard to prevent their return—an action for which, on being questioned, they could themselves give no justification. The two women afterwards held an open-air meeting, at which the audience, consisting of both men and women, was attentive and to a great extent sympathetic.

### THE WAR MINISTER'S RETREAT.



MISS PANKHURST: There is more fight in some women than in some men. Look at the War Secretary running away from the Suffragettes!

MR. HALDANE: I'll brave the raging of our foes, but not an angry lady!

(Reproduced by kind permission of the "Manchester Evening News.")

Considerable dissatisfaction is shown, says the *Daily News*, by a large section of Liberal women workers in Nottingham, who disclaim sympathy with militant Suffragist tactics, at the decision to exclude women from the meeting to be addressed by Mr. Churchill in Nottingham on the 29th inst. "The recent threats of the Suffragist leaders to allow no Cabinet Ministers to speak have, however, determined the Liberal Executive in their action."

### THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

The next meeting of this newly formed League, of which Mrs. Kendal is the President and Miss Lillah McCarthy the Hon. Treasurer, will meet on Friday, February 5, at Clifford's Inn Hall, Fleet Street, at 3 p.m. Miss Lillah McCarthy will receive the guests on behalf of the League, and Mrs. Marion Holmes will speak. Members of the N.W.S.P.U. will be gladly welcomed. The Hon. Secretary of the League is Miss Adeline Bourne, 19, Overstrand Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W.

### THE SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

The newly constituted Scottish University Women's Suffrage Society resolved, at a meeting held on Saturday, January 15, to hold meetings in towns and villages in Scotland, and to place a Women's Suffrage organiser in Scottish constituencies.

The great chance of success for the Suffragettes is the unwhole some fear which their intervention at by-elections creates in members and candidates.—*The Court Journal*, January 20.



## THE POTATO-PICKERS.

By SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Let us not look at ourselves, but onwards, and take strength from the leaf and the signs of the field. He is indeed despicable who cannot look onwards to the ideal life of man. Not to do so is to deny our birthright of mind.—Richard Jefferies.

It was a fresh, bright, autumnal morning, with the sun shining, and the patches of strong, clear, blue sky showing bravely between the driving clouds.

A lark was singing overhead, and the ploughman was driving his team across the field.

The man whistled, and the sides of fat, well-groomed horses glistened, and every time they went up and down the field the ploughshare cut straight through the heart of one of the weed-covered ridges where the withered stalks of the potato plants were growing, and left behind it in their place an open furrow, where the potatoes could be seen lying amid the moist dank earth.

And following in the wake of the plough there was a long line of women stooping and bending, bending and stooping, over the furrows, groping with their hands in the loose soil, and gathering up the potatoes as they came.

There were three or four men in the field also, the overlookers, who stood talking and smoking by the hedge, and from time to time carried away the filled potato baskets that the women had placed ready, and emptied them into the potato "pit."

Hour after hour the women went on toiling with bent backs and eyes fixed on the ground, until at last one of the men shouted to them to stop, for it was half-past twelve.

Then the potato pickers rose, and straightened themselves, and came towards me where I sat watching them, and I saw them clearly for the first time. They were poor, miserable creatures, clad in vile, nameless rags, sometimes pinned, sometimes tied round them with other rags or bits of string. There were old, old women, with their skin all gnarled and wrinkled, and their purple lips all cracked. There were young women with dull white sullen faces, many with scars or black bruises round the eyes, and swollen, shapeless lips. Their hair was all matted and neglected, and every woman's eyes were fiery red.

They came and squatted on the piles of straw laid ready for covering the potatoes, and began, each one to eat her meal of bread and jam or bread and cheese, or of dry bread alone. As they did so they shouted to each other, in loud harsh voices, coarse, ribald jokes and oaths, and then laughed at them with awful laughter. When they had finished eating, the elder women sat talking together more quietly, and smoking short clay pipes, whilst the younger women either lay about half-asleep in the straw or chased each other across the field with rough horseplay.

At one o'clock the men called them back to their work again, and so they went on till five, when they gathered together their ragged shawls and outer garments, and noisily left the field.

Beside the three straw-covered lorries on which they were driven back to their homes in Berwick-on-Tweed, I saw them standing huddled together, these poor, degraded creatures lower than the beasts of the field.

I left them, and turned away down the quiet lane between the woods, where the red light of the setting sun shone upon the tree trunks and the moss and the pine needles at their feet, but as I came upon the open road again they overtook me and drove away past me shouting and singing as though to make the sweet country-side around them hideous with their noise.

The sky was diffused with a glorious pale gold, and silhouetted against it the leaves and stems showed with

delicate distinctness the beauty of their myriad shapes. All the hush and awe of the evening was around me, but still my thoughts were busy with those poor, dreadful women, and my heart ached.

They had gone back to the slums where they stay except when there is potato or fruit-picking or some other work of the kind for them to do. The town of Berwick is very sordid. It has more than its share of tramps and vagabonds. This is partly because it is a great centre for the potato merchants, who give casual employment to these poor waifs and strays, and partly, too, they say, because it is a garrison town.

Oh, can it be that we women would have let so many things go wrong in this world, and should we have let it be so hard a place for the unfortunate, if we had had the governing power that men have had?

The light faded, and the stars began to show, and as I climbed up the steep hill between the dark and overhanging trees there came a swinging, marching tune with a wail behind it into my ears, and the words of an old folk-song:—

Oh, cursed be the cruel wars that ever they did rise,  
And out of Merry England pressed many a lad likewise!  
They pressed young Harry from me, they pressed my brothers three,  
They took them to the cruel wars in high Germany.

The little house at the top of the hill looked warm and cosy as one came in out of the darkness, but the woman who sat knitting there by the fire was sad, because the children she had loved and worked for had gone out into the world, and left her. She was lonely, and had not enough to do to occupy her thoughts.

Yet if she could but realise it, the great Woman's Movement calls her as it calls all other women, and out in the world there is a work that waits for her,

And endless succession of labour, under the brightness of summer, under the gloom of winter. To my thought it is a sadness even in the colour and light and glow of this hour of sun, this ceaseless labour, repairing the furrow, reiterating the blow, the same furrows, the same stroke—shall we never know how to lighten it, how to live with the flowers, the swallows, the sweet delicious shade, and the murmur of the stream?—Richard Jefferies.

## THE WOMEN'S MARSEILLAISE.

Arise, ye daughters of a land  
That vaunts its liberty!  
Make reckless rulers understand  
That women must be free,  
That women *will* be free.  
Hark! Hark! The trumpet's calling!  
Who'd be a laggard in the fight?  
With victory even now in sight,  
And stubborn foemen backward falling.  
*Chorus.* To Freedom's cause till death  
We swear our fealty.  
*Repeat.* March on! March on!  
Face to the dawn,  
The dawn of liberty.

Arise! Though pain or loss betide,  
Grudge naught of freedom's toll.  
For what they loved the martyrs died;  
Are we of meaner soul?  
Are we of meaner soul?  
Our comrades, greatly daring,  
Through prison bars have led the way:  
Who would not follow to the fray,  
Their glorious struggle proudly sharing?  
*Chorus.* To Freedom's cause till death  
We swear our fealty.  
*Repeat.* March on! March on!  
Face to the dawn,  
The dawn of liberty.

—F. E. M. Macaulay.

## PROGRESS OF WOMEN.

The Emperor of Austria has conferred the Grand Cross of the Order of Elizabeth on Queen Elena of Italy in recognition of her self-sacrificing labours in connection with the earthquake. The Order was established in 1898 for women who accomplish great deeds. The German Emperor has also decorated the Queen with the Order of Luise, and the insignia of similar Orders are, it is announced, to be conferred by other European Sovereigns.

### Territorial Nurses for London.

Following on the enrolment of nurses in the provinces for active service in case of invasion, a committee was appointed at the Mansion House last week to establish a similar service for the two London divisions of the Territorial Forces. It was stated that 120 nurses were required for each hospital. One of the active supporters of the scheme is Miss Haldane, sister of the Minister for War, who considers that women's patriotic feelings should have the same play as those of men.

### A Protest.

Miss Wilson, president of the Midwives' Institute, and one of the nominees of the Privy Council on the Central Midwives' Board, has resigned her seat, as the strongest protest in her power against the omission of a midwife from the Departmental Committee appointed by the Privy Council to inquire into the working of the Midwives Act. She considers it the gravest mistake and injustice to appoint a committee, having for its ostensible object the future amendment of the Midwives Act, without permitting a midwife herself to voice her own views and interests thereon. The Midwives' Institute acts in the interests of 26,000 midwives.

### A Motoring Record.

Miss Edith Paterson drove a motor-car some fifty miles on the Brooklands track on Saturday, January 16, thereby gaining the Brooklands Club certificate for reliability. This is the first occasion on which such a certificate has been awarded to a woman.

### "Votes for Women" in America.

A reading of Elizabeth Robins' play, "Votes for Women," was given recently by Mrs. Marion Craig Wentworth, a well-known dramatic reader, under the auspices of the Cicitas Club, at Brooklyn (N.Y.). Mrs. Wentworth is a prominent Suffragist in New York.

It is stated in one of the New York papers that, as a result of an anti-suffrage meeting, held recently in the City, a number of women have visited the offices of the Interurban Woman Suffrage Council, with a view to informing themselves on the question of Votes for Women.

An exciting debate on the status of the American woman took place in New York recently, under the auspices of the National Trade Union League, the speakers being Mrs. Perkins Gilman and the Rev. Anna Shaw. Mrs. Gilman maintained that woman as a rule in America was, in her domestic relations, more of a servant than a partner. The average American wife, although popularly supposed to be petted and pampered and treated as the queen of the earth, "just got as many oats as her husband allotted, and no more." Mrs. Shaw also criticised the marriage relationship in strong terms, stating that in 38 States of the Union the children were entirely the husband's property. In the same number of States the wife was not even permitted to own her own clothes. She asked: Was a country, in 38 States in which a woman did not own her own hairpins, a civilised country or something else?

### A Woman Mineowner.

Mrs. Nellie C. Upham was the only woman delegate to the American Mining Congress which met recently in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Upham is a mine-owner, and has taken part to a considerable extent in litigation relating to mines.

### Women Students at the New Universities.

Statistics issued by the Board of Education show that in the academical year 1906-7 the percentage of women in the English universities (Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, and Sheffield) were 26.8 of the whole number; in the Welsh universities (Aberystwyth, Bangor, and Cardiff) the proportion was 45.6. At Aberystwyth the number of women students exceeded that of the men by 222 to 205.

### Girl Typists.

The executive committee of the Association of Shorthand Writers and Typists has unanimously carried a resolution declaring the opinion that girls should not commence their training as shorthand writers and typists under the age of 16, for the following reasons:—No public body employs shorthand writers and typists under the age of 18. Generally speaking, no girl under the age of 16, whose education is not being definitely and regularly continued, has reached such a

standard of intelligence and learning as to be able to compete successfully with workers whose education has been carried to a later age. Until the attendance of young people at continuation schools is enforced (their hours of labour being shortened for the purpose), the working hours of the average shorthand writer and typist are so long and the employment is so fatiguing that it is impossible for a girl whose physical health is not yet firmly established, to expend mental energy in carrying her education to a higher standard after office hours.

It is not expedient, the Committee says, for girls of a tender age to be employed in this occupation, as they are often obliged to work entirely without the supervision of an older member of their own sex; indeed, such young clerks are but seldom (if ever) employed in the better class of office. The remuneration of children under 16 cannot fail to be low; their employment therefore tends to bring down the standard of pay in this occupation—a result much to be deprecated, the remuneration of girl clerks being deplorably low already.

The question of "office dress" was discussed by the Association after a concert at the Chandos Hall, Maiden Lane, W.C., on Tuesday.

### A Ninety-seven Years' Record.

An old lady, Susan O'Hagan, has died at Lisburn at the age of 106, after 97 years' service in one family. During that time she was practically never ill or unable to perform her daily work. She enjoyed the full use of her faculties, and could knit and sew without glasses, had a marvellous memory, and enjoyed telling of the stirring events of the last century. She died after a week's illness.

### An Echo of the Crimea.

There is living in Richmond at the present time a woman who has the distinction of having been through the Crimean War. She was among the first to land. The privations endured by the few women with the regiments were very severe. Mrs. Evans marched with the troops who assembled for the Battle of Alma, and recalls with pride that the task of repairing the colours after the battle was entrusted to her.

### Research for Women Students.

The Naples Table Association for promoting laboratory research by women announces, says *Science* (New York), that a prize of 1,000 dollars will be awarded for the third time in April, 1909, for the best thesis, written by a woman, on a scientific subject, embodying new observations and new conclusions based on independent laboratory research in biological, chemical, or physical science.

### Plucky Czech Girls.

A story of pluck on the part of three young girls comes from Prague. In the hospital was a woman clerk, Fraulein Fritsch, who, owing to a factory accident, had been nearly scalped by machinery. The doctors declared that new skin must be used in an operation for her recovery, and a philanthropist thereupon offered £20 to any person who might be disposed to make such a sacrifice. No fewer than 600 people offered themselves, and the doctors selected for the purpose a poor woman with two children. The three girls—Fraulein J. Zoufallo, daughter of a gymnasium professor; Fraulein M. Prchal, from Veneschau; and Fraulein A. Karl, from Hromitz, near Pilsen—went, on hearing of this resolution on the part of the poor woman, to the hospital, and offered themselves in her place, the money to be given to her, so that she might keep her health, and be able to maintain her children. Professor Kukula, who performed the operation, took part of the skin from the soles of the feet of each girl, and laid it on the scalp of Fraulein Fritsch. No injury appears to have resulted, and a speedy recovery is expected both for Fraulein Fritsch and the three girls.

Mdme. Jousselin, recently elected to serve on the Conseils des Prudhommes, has taken the oath at the Palace of Justice. It runs as follows: "*Je jure de remplir mes devoirs avec zèle et intégrité et de garder le secret des délibérations.*"

A strong body of women in Italy called upon the Italian Parliament recently to deal at once with the question of the *reversò della paternità*, pointing out that the refusal to trace the father of an illegitimate child is a grievous aggravation of the position of the mother.

Miss Charlotte Mansfield, who has left London with the intention of journeying from the Cape to Cairo, 1,773 miles of the distance to be covered on foot, has already done a good deal of tramping on the Continent.

Miss Barbara Tchaykovosky, M.D. Lond., has been awarded the London University medal in State Medicine.



## The National Women's Social & Political Union.

OFFICE:

4, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND, W.C.

Telegrams:—"WOSPOLU, LONDON." Telephone: Holborn 2724 (two lines).

Mrs. PANKHURST, *Founder and Hon. Sec.*  
 Mrs. TUKE, *Joint Hon. Sec.*  
 Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE, *Hon. Treasurer.*  
 Miss CHRISTABEL PANKHURST, *Organising Sec.*

The Women's Social and Political Union are asking for votes for women on the same terms as they are possessed by men.

They are not asking for the vote for every woman, but that a woman shall not be refused a vote simply because she is a woman.

The Women's Social and Political Union claim that a simple measure, giving the vote to women on these terms, shall be passed next Session.

### WAR—OR WORK?

The Prime Minister's answer to the letter addressed to him by Christabel Pankhurst in the name of the Union came to hand last Saturday. It was a contemptuous refusal to deal with the claim of tax-paying women to their due share of the rights of citizenship. The matter could not rest there. Women no longer prepared to submit to complete exclusion from the constitution of their country sent back their answer to the Prime Minister on Monday. Since words are unavailing, that answer had to take the form of action. Moreover, a deputation of women will set forth from Caxton Hall on February 24 to seek from Mr. Asquith that interview which he has refused to appoint. They will insist, since they have no representatives in the House of Commons, they will insist upon their moral right to state their case to their political masters who take their money for purposes of Government, while refusing them their political rights as taxpayers. And, as a consequence of the protest which they are prepared to make, we have every reason to expect further terms of imprisonment as severe both as to length of sentence and rigour of treatment as the manipulation of the law will permit.

Why do we speak of this now? Because we want every woman who is in earnest about this matter to realise that the price of women's enfranchisement has not yet been paid. A great ransom has been given already. But not enough. More yet is needed. And more will be forthcoming. Yes, the uttermost farthing exacted by our political masters will be paid. For it is not only one-half of the humanity of our nation that is to be freed. Those who understand the ultimate meaning of this woman's movement realise that it means a new deliverance for the whole of humanity from bonds that cripple and that hinder its advancement.

The question that every woman associated with this movement has now to ask herself is, "What am I going to do? What part of the great price am I as an individual going to pay?"

There are some who have already offered themselves for militant work in the immediate future. "I will give," they are saying, "as much of my life as the authorities in power choose to take from me." Others will be coming forward during the next few weeks to join their ranks. But there are hundreds, there are thousands of women so placed as to be unable to make this supreme sacrifice. Is there nothing that they can offer? Nothing that they can do materially to help to win this great prize of freedom and of dignity for their sex? There is. In particular there is one important scheme in which they can participate, a scheme in which both as individuals and as an organised community they can achieve a very great result. Though they may not be able to give all, to give a whole piece out of their life to the great ransom, yet

they may bring many and great gifts. And everybody's help is needed, and needed now.

The special scheme to which I have referred is connected, not directly with the militant side of this movement, but with its organising and its educational side, a side not one whit less important, a side absolutely essential to success. Everybody can take part in this scheme. Not one in our ranks is too poor, not one is too old or too young, or too frail to render some bit of service in connection with it. And everybody can begin at once—this very day. We are holding in May an exhibition. It will be an Exhibition of the Colours; an Exhibition and a Sale of women's work, and will be open for a fortnight. During that time we shall attract and draw together many thousands of people, and having drawn them together we shall make new recruits and win new members, new supporters, and new workers to strengthen our ranks. We shall draw the attention of the business world and of the holiday world to our colours, and extend their popularity. Purple, white, and green must be the prevailing colours of the summer of 1909. The popularity of the colours means very much to the influence of our organisation. Our exhibition must also prove so original, so interesting, and so effective from the picturesque point of view as to be yet another revelation of the resource and capacity that is in the Women's Social and Political Union. It must be so successful as to be the talk of the town.

Apart from all this, however, the Exhibition and the Sale of women's work has to fill the war chest. The financial result should be expressed in a sum of at least £5,000 for the campaign fund. How is this sum to be realised? There are to be one hundred stalls set aside for articles for sale. The allotment of these stalls should take place at once. There is no time to lose if they are to be adequately furnished. The stalls are not large. They measure 6ft., 8ft., and 10ft., respectively. But since the exhibition will be open for a fortnight—from May 13 to May 26—everyone who becomes responsible for one stall must undertake to collect and supply goods to the value of £100 at the very least. Every day the stall will have to be replenished as articles are sold and taken away by the purchasers.

We are anxious to receive applications at once, both from individuals and from local unions or other societies. Those who cannot promise to supply one whole stall can make themselves responsible for one-half, one-quarter, one-fifth, one-tenth, or even for one-twentieth part of a stall. In order to perfect our plan of organisation it is necessary to have promises sent in without delay.

Very prompt has been the response already to this new need for help and co-operation.

The secretary of the recently formed Actresses' Franchise League has written, most generously offering on behalf of her society to take over the entire responsibility and work of providing the whole of the entertainment programme, and as many delightful suggestions have been made already and many popular actresses have promised to take part, the success of this department is ensured. Women artists have proved themselves equally generous, and their stall will be one of the attractions of the exhibition. And women writers have also come forward, and will give not only a stall but their personal service during that fortnight in May.

The West of England has offered to supply two stalls, many of the London Unions have come forward with the promise to help by becoming responsible for the whole or for the half of one stall. The Woman's Press is taking several stalls.

About thirty stalls have been allocated already. The remainder ought to be taken over this week. Working parties are being organised in various centres. So far as it is possible the colour scheme should be followed. White, purple and green should be the predominating colour upon all the stalls.

Handwork of all kinds—embroidery, needlework, art-work in wood or leather, in metal or enamel—all these things are wanted in large quantities, and all these things take time to do and complete. And the time is short. Every little helps; and wherever our members are, however isolated from comrades who sympathise with them, they should sit down at once and ask themselves: "What is my contribution going to be to the success of this scheme? What have I got to do now?" And the moment they have made their decision let them communicate with the Exhibition Secretary at 4, Clements Inn, Strand, London, W.C. I would urge them not to lose a single post.

That is the way we work miracles in the Women's Social and Political Union. Everyone plays up. Everyone does her own part, and does it thoroughly and well. And, therefore, all share in the achievement, and the achievement is a triumph for all.

It is a great task that we have undertaken, and we have a great reputation to keep up. We cannot afford to be content with anything mediocre—with anything less than a record. In this Union it is our custom to break records. We broke records last year when we carried through the greatest political demonstration ever held in the history of the world. That achievement of last year must be surpassed this year by the success of our Exhibition. The Hyde Park demonstration was the result of the utmost devotion and enthusiasm expressed in terms of hard and incessant work. The utmost devotion and enthusiasm, hard and incessant work, and nothing else, will ensure the success of our Exhibition—the ultimate success of our great campaign for justice and freedom.

Up, then, brave and untiring comrades! Let us get to work or to war. Those who enlist for the war fight for the honour, the freedom of womanhood. Those who set themselves to the work, labour for the vindication and the triumph of the warriors and for the great principle that underlies their warfare. The work and the war are equally honourable, equally essential to the success of the glorious cause to which we have dedicated our lives. Then let us put everything that is trivial, everything that is non-essential, everything that is of the nature of self-indulgence aside, and with joyful energy let us set ourselves to accomplish our purpose and carry out by concentration of will and by diligence of work the determination that we have made to win for our own and succeeding generations the enfranchisement of the women of this nation.

Emmeline Pethick Lawrence.

### WHY WOMEN WENT TO DOWNING STREET.

"10, Downing Street, Whitehall, S.W., January 22, 1909.

"Dear Madam,—I am desired by the Prime Minister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, and to inform you that he does not think that any useful purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation on the subject of the franchise."

"Vaughan Nash."

Thus replies Mr. Asquith to the letter sent to him by the Women's Social and Political Union. That letter, it will be remembered, contained a request that the Prime Minister would receive a small deputation in order that the case for the immediate enfranchisement of women might be laid before him.

His refusal of this reasonable request will meet with general disapproval. Since he became Prime Minister he has never once received a Woman Suffrage deputation, although he has been asked to do so by Suffragists, both militant and non-militant.

Such behaviour on the part of the Prime Minister would be discourteous and unstatesmanlike where any one of the politi-

cal movements of the day are concerned, but to adopt this attitude in the case of the Woman Suffrage movement is especially unwarranted. The claim to Woman Suffrage is so important in its nature, and is advanced with so much enthusiasm and energy, that no Minister with a due sense of justice and of responsibility would adopt the course taken by Mr. Asquith. It would be interesting to know whether his refusal to receive a deputation is dictated by the knowledge that where this question is concerned he who argues is lost, or by the hope that to turn a deaf ear to women's call for the vote will tire them out and break down their agitation. If such were in fact his hope he was doomed to early disappointment. Quickly upon his intended rebuff came the return blow. If he will not receive a deputation willingly, then he shall receive one against his will, if women's wit and determination can manage it.

The late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, on first assuming office, declined to receive the representatives of the Women's Social and Political Union. Then followed a series of visits to Downing Street, which, though they resulted in the arrest of some of our members, eventually induced Sir Henry to change his mind and to receive a deputation. Guided by this early experience, we know that similar action must be taken in the case of Mr. Asquith.

On Monday last the Cabinet met for the first time this year to consider the programme for the Session. Members of the Union proceeded to Downing Street to demand an interview. Instead of being received they were arrested. What will be the consequence to our friends of their brave attempt to see the Prime Minister we do not yet know. All of us are grateful to them for having acted with so much promptness and decision. Mr. Asquith's letter could not be allowed to go unanswered. They have given it a fitting reply.

What other reply was possible? To treat the Prime Minister's letter as final would have been to accept defeat. Refused the ordinary means of communication with the Prime Minister, this unconventional means is all that remains. Better for the Liberal leaders had they, instead of subjecting our friends to arrest, thrown open the doors of the council chamber and heard their plea for justice.

Of late, on public platforms, Mr. Winston Churchill, Sir Edward Grey, and others have made boast of the action of the Liberal Government in granting political liberty to the male inhabitants of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. They have been heard also to offer their congratulations to the newly enfranchised people of Turkey. They must be made to understand that the country will not believe them true friends of political liberty unless they first do the duty which is nearest to them by giving the right of self-government to the women of their own country.

The militant campaign of 1909 has now begun in real earnest, and will be continued unflinchingly until our end is attained. Let every woman who wants the vote remember that there is no time to be lost. If ever she means to act, let her act now. The "Westminster Gazette," always in close touch with the views of Ministers, admits the probability of a Dissolution at the close of the present Session; the "Daily News" and a large section of the Liberal Party incline towards the plan of fighting an immediate battle with the Lords, which, as they point out, involves "the curtailment of the legislative programme, the concentration of all the energies of the party on the constitutional issue, and inevitably an early dissolution." Suffragists are therefore forewarned of the danger of disappointment. That danger can be averted by energetic and determined action. The Women's Social and Political Union call upon the women who have hitherto held aloof to come into the fighting ranks without delay.

Christabel Pankhurst.



## THE CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

### LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES.

On Monday the first Cabinet meeting after the winter recess was held, and, in consequence of the Prime Minister's refusal to receive a deputation, five members of the N.W.S.P.U. went to Downing Street, determined, if possible, to obtain an interview. Their action and its consequences are described on page 291. If these women have to go to prison we shall want others to take their place, and now is the time for volunteers. Let all who have time to spare—little or much—come to 4, Clements Inn, and we will set them to work. Miss Fergus is here to help me in interviewing new workers, and they should ask for her, in the first place. To-morrow (Friday) at the social evening in the Portman Rooms we hope to meet many both old and new friends. Particulars are on page 290. A number of people were present at the Thursday evening At Home at St. James's Hall, many of them being strangers. Mrs. Pankhurst was in the chair, and Miss Christabel Pankhurst informed the meeting about the letter sent to the Prime Minister, and hoped for a favourable reply, but said that if it was not forthcoming action would have to be taken. Miss Una Dugdale described her experiences at Birmingham, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, in a powerful speech, which was listened to with thoughtful attention, emphasised the fallacy of the physical force argument which is so often raised. On Monday afternoon there was a splendid rally of members, friends, and strangers at the Queen's Hall At Home. Mrs. Mary Layton, F.R.C.O.—who has so kindly undertaken to provide for an organ recital before both the Thursday and Monday At Homes—opened with a selection of music, and Miss Wolverley sang "Among the Rocks." Miss Christabel Pankhurst (chair) briefly described the political situation, referring to the letter to the Prime Minister, to which his reply—that "he did not think any useful purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation"—had been received. If any group of men politicians had been slighted as he had slighted the women, the public and the Press would have charged him with acting in an eminently insulting manner. The only course for British women now was to fight for their rights until the Liberal Government did that simple act of justice which women had demanded for fifty years. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence said the first gun had been fired in the campaign of 1909. The Government were at last beginning to have an idea that the women meant business, and, although the militant tactics meant continual sacrifice of all that made women's lives pleasant and comfortable, they were going on. Those who disliked the methods lacked the physical courage to act upon them themselves, but they should at least have the moral courage to say so, and to provide the means for the braver ones to carry this thing through. (Hear, hear.) The women who had been before Mr. Marshall at Bow Street related their attempt to reach the Council Chamber at Downing Street in order to protest against the refusal of the Prime Minister to receive a deputation, and how they were immediately arrested and taken to the Police Court. Mr. Pethick Lawrence having given an account of the Police Court proceedings, the collection was taken, money and promises amounting to over £50.

Miss Adela Pankhurst has taken a house-to-house canvass of the principal streets in Kilburn and Bronesbury. The canvassers have met with marked success, and much interest has been shown in the movement. Visits have also been paid to all the business and professional women in the district. Since Monday, the 11th, no fewer than ten drawing-room meetings have been arranged. A teachers' meeting has been fixed for Friday, the 29th, at 8 p.m., in the Furness Road schoolrooms, and invitations have been sent to all the teachers in the district. To-day a drawing-room meeting is to be held at Mrs. Eates', 7, Wrentham Avenue, Willesden; and there will be another on Monday, February 1, at Miss Seaton's, Garlinge, Shoot-up-Hill.

The Peckham and Camberwell campaign is now in full swing. At the business meeting on January 20 three new speakers gave in their names; Miss Dines kindly offered to receive all literature, etc., at her residence during the campaign, and Miss Campbell promised to do all the secretarial work. On Friday and Saturday two meetings took place at Camberwell Green, the speakers being Miss Walsh, Dr. Ede, Mrs. Mayer, and Mrs. Bartlett. On Saturday a band of workers sold 135 copies of VOTES FOR WOMEN in the streets. Open-air meetings are being held throughout the week, and all the Camberwell and Peckham schools are being visited for the purpose of selling tickets for the indoor meeting on February 3. To-day (Thursday), Friday, and Saturday, at 11 a.m., 2.30 p.m., and 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Bartlett will be very pleased to meet all those who are able to help in selling VOTES FOR WOMEN, at the corner of Church Street, Camberwell Green. Tickets (6d. and 3d.) for the meeting in the Masonic Hall, Camberwell New Road, on February 3, at 8 p.m. (speaker, Mrs. Drummond), can be had from Mrs. Bartlett,

4, Clements Inn. The meetings on the 1st and 5th, which are to take place in the same hall, are free.

By the time readers get their VOTES FOR WOMEN the meeting in the Croydon Public Hall, at which Miss Christabel Pankhurst is speaking, will be over. At the time of writing very few tickets are left, and everything points to a successful evening, thanks to Miss Flatman's vigorous propaganda. The meeting was advertised on Saturday by means of a brake decorated in the colours filled with women in prison dress, which caused a good deal of sensation. Miss L. Tyson has given Miss Flatman most efficient help during the week.

Miss Helen Ogston is preparing for the great meeting in the Dome, Brighton, on February 2, when Mrs. Pankhurst will be the speaker, with Mrs. Massy in the chair. Frequent open-air meetings are being held, and also dinner-hour meetings for the railway men. On Saturday, January 30, at 8 p.m., there is to be a meeting in the Hove Town Hall. Miss Hare will preside, and Miss Ogston will be the chief speaker. The office is at 50, Preston Street.

Mrs. Seymour Hare, 112, Elm Park Gardens, S.W., gave an At Home on January 25, when Miss Isabel Seymour spoke on the need for the vote, and Miss Hare, of Brighton, made an excellent speech on the militant tactics. We want more meetings of this kind everywhere. Workers, please note.

Mrs. Mayer is working up Marylebone for a public meeting, the date of which is not yet fixed.

### Flora Drummond.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND.

Shop and Committee Rooms: 33, Queen's Road (opposite Art Gallery), Clifton. Open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

At Homes.—Bristol: Victoria Rooms, every Monday, 3.30 to 5.30.

Stokes Croft: Assembly Rooms, meeting every Friday 8 p.m.

Important Event.—Bristol: Colston Hall, Mass Meeting, Friday (Feb. 12), 8 p.m.

We are planning to cover a great deal of fresh ground during the spring. A meeting will be held in Cardiff on Monday, February 1. Last Tuesday I spent at Glastonbury, where, with Miss Strange-way's help, we are organising meetings in the Town Hall for February 17—women's meeting at 3.30, public meeting at 7.30. An At Home will be arranged at Chipping Sodbury for January 30 (Saturday). Much interest has been shown in that neighbourhood, as well as in other parts of Somersetshire, which we hope to visit after the Colston Hall meeting. Workers resident in Glastonbury, Street, Bridgewater, and elsewhere please write to me at 78, Alma Road, Clifton.—We are also opening out new work in Bath. On Saturday for the first time we had a stall in the Market; at the back of the stall hung a white banner with "Votes for Women" in purple and green letters. Miss Ethel Tollemache is taking charge, assisted by Bath members. We are also negotiating for halls for weekly meetings. Anyone in Bath or the neighbourhood who is anxious to help on this work please write to Miss Ethel Tollemache, the Villa, Bathaston, Bath. In Bristol and Clifton the work is going ahead, and, in order to advertise the Colston Hall meeting on February 12, two of the theatres are throwing a notice on their screens. At our Monday's At Home we made fresh members and received £2 to help to carry on the campaign. On Tuesday Miss Vera Wentworth and Miss Clara Codd had a good meeting in the Horse Fair. On Wednesday we held a fine meeting for women in Mr. Birrell's constituency (Fishponds), most of those present being of the hard-working class; their response to our explanation of the demand for the vote was most encouraging. The women at the adult Guild meeting which I addressed next day also want to know more about the subject of votes for women. On Saturday our teachers' At Home was a great success; it took place in the parlour of the Victoria Rooms. We shall have another after the Colston Hall meeting. Miss Vera Wentworth and Miss Clara Codd took the Stokes Croft At Home this week, and Miss Wentworth has organised a "Votes Corps," which goes out on Monday evening, Thursday morning, and Friday afternoon. Helpers who can give some time to this excellent propaganda work please write to Miss Vera Wentworth, 33, Queen's Road, Clifton. Miss Wentworth is also organising chalking parties for advertising our open-air meetings. We want more workers to help us to rouse the West of England and win votes for women this session. Some of the financial details are held over till next week. Plymouth collections were 10s. 9d.; Plymouth members (for room for evening meeting), 4s. 6d.; per Miss E. Ball (Paignton collection), 7s.; Mrs. Beard, 10s. From Miss Elsie Howey I have received the following report:—

#### Plymouth and Torquay.

At Homes.—Plymouth: Royal Hotel, First Friday in every month, 4 to 6 p.m.

Treville Street Hall, Public Meeting, every Friday, 8 p.m.

Paignton: Masonic Hall, every Thursday, 4 to 6 p.m.

Important Events.—Torquay, Bath Saloons, February 8, Mrs. Pankhurst.

Plymouth Guildhall, February 10, 8 p.m., Mrs. Pankhurst.

A very successful meeting was held at Saltash (Cornwall) last Wednesday evening, this being the first time the Suffragettes had visited the place. A crowd of several hundred people assembled in Alexandra Square to listen to the speakers. An open air meeting was also held in Plymouth, and was very well attended. Miss

Elsie Ball, who is carrying on the work at Torquay, held an excellent meeting at Paignton Green on Wednesday, at which Miss Mills also spoke. Totnes was also visited by the Suffragettes on Friday for the first time. Miss Ball and Miss Mills were the speakers, and secured an excellent hearing. The usual At Homes have been held both at Plymouth and Torquay, and the "Votes Corps" have also done good work in both towns.

Annie Kenney.

#### LANCASHIRE.

Central Office.—Manchester, 164, Oxford Road.

At Homes.—Manchester: Onward Buildings, Deansgate, Fridays, 8—10.

Liverpool: Engineers' Rooms, 48, Mt. Pleasant, Tuesdays, 8—10.

Preston.—Glovers Court, Wednesdays, 7.30 p.m.

Important Event.—Wed., March 24, Free Trade Hall. Mrs. Pankhurst.

Manchester has held its third great effort of the indoor season in the Large Free Trade Hall, and is now getting ready for a fourth venture in March. If the latter is still more successful in the progressive way which has distinguished each of the three meetings held so far it will leave very little to be desired. These continued successes are due to the splendid work of members who have rallied to my assistance in helping to develop the district work we have found so valuable. Tuesday's effort brought together a great audience from every part of Manchester and greater Manchester. For it is well to remember, as the *Daily News* pointed out when introducing its new Manchester edition, that within thirty miles' radius of this city there lives a greater population than that which lives within a similar radius from Charing Cross. These millions of people must be reached systematically, and, with a sturdy development in the "capital," Manchester, that will be an easier task. The interference of the police authorities with our advertising arrangements last Saturday week had the usual effect, and on the following Monday many pictures in the Press reminded the general public of our meeting. We were also fortunate on the day of Miss Pankhurst's arrival in getting other pictures produced before the evening meeting. Our guest was met at the station with a decorated "Welcome, Christabel," wagonette, and a great crowd having assembled at a few minutes' notice, sympathetic cheers were given. At night the crowd gathered in good time to hear the musical programme rendered on the organ by Miss Lily Muzzell, of St. Paul's, Willington. Everywhere members of the Union, generally wearing white dresses (the *Daily Mail* thought they were all "Directoire") and the colours, moved about selling programmes and literature. At 8 o'clock we mounted the platform to the accompaniment of "See the Conquering Hero Come," and when "our hero" did come she had a magnificent welcome, to which most of the Press reports make special reference. Miss Pankhurst spoke for over an hour on the importance of the political situation as it affects Votes for Women. The collection was a busy and interesting part of the proceedings. Promises varying from 10s. to £5 were made, and a general collection, amounting to £14, was taken. After questions had been cleverly dealt with by Miss Pankhurst the resolution was put to the meeting and carried by an overwhelming majority. A copy has been sent to every member of the Cabinet and to all local members of Parliament.

Considering the nature of the two days' fog which had enveloped the city Friday's At Home was very well supported. Miss Robinson, M.Sc., spoke capably, and particularly impressed upon the new members the necessity of taking up the Union's work at once. This is indeed specially necessary, as, with the opening up of other parts of Lancashire, the fields of labour will be immense and many, and the organiser is but one! For the next Free Trade Hall meeting in March further developments of district organisation are planned, and to this end members are requested to note the special list of local meetings in the "Programme of Events" column (p. 290). At these meetings within the next three weeks plans will be unfolded and movements initiated.

Liverpool.—By the time this is in print the special business meeting of Liverpool and district members will have been held, and a large meeting set going in the preliminary stages of arrangement. The protest arranged by Miss Mary Phillips and Miss Flatman on the occasion of Mr. Lloyd George's visit just before Christmas showed the sympathy of the Liverpool people to the cause. Liverpool can and will do well, I know, as a thoroughly "live" centre.

Preston.—Mrs. Rigby, writing on behalf of Preston, voices the claims of that steady and staunch local Union. Preston will, I hope, be one of the Lancashire centres making a big effort very shortly.

The financial report is unavoidably held over.

Mary E. Gawthorpe.

#### MIDLANDS.

Office and Committee Rooms: 14, Ethel Street, Birmingham.

At Homes.—Birmingham: Priory Rooms, Old Square, Tuesday, 7.30.

Edgbaston Assembly Rooms, Wednesday, 3.30.

Wolverhampton: St. Peter's Institute, Wednesday, 7.30.

The work of the past week has been very varied in character. Two Cabinet Ministers have been in the neighbourhood, and both had the question of votes for women brought prominently before

their notice. Lord Crewe at Brierley Hill, on being heckled by a Suffragette, stated his willingness to reply to the interruption, but as he proceeded to do so the woman was roughly hurried from the hall. We fail to see why she should have been thus ejected, since the speaker expressed his willingness to reply, and the chairman described her interruption as both dignified and ladylike. Miss Una Dugdale's visit to Birmingham was a great pleasure to us. She addressed an audience in Saltley on Monday; on Tuesday evening we had the pleasure of hearing her at the Priory Rooms, and on Wednesday at the Edgbaston Assembly Rooms. We are hoping that Miss Joan Dugdale will come to us shortly. On Wednesday evening I addressed the women post office clerks. This meeting, which had been arranged by Miss Bunting and Miss Lawrence, was a great success; many had come quite opposed to votes for women, but after some of the great reasons why the freedom of women is so vitally important had been explained there was not a hand held up against the motion. Ten new members joined, and a large quantity of literature was sold. Miss Gardiner is arranging a Suffragette theatre party. The date is not definitely settled at the time of writing, but it will be February 4 or February 18. Not only have we outlined our spring campaign in the Midlands, but we have also decided on some of the seaside resorts at which we shall carry on propaganda work in the summer; they will be those towns in the north and south of Wales that are frequented by the people from our Midland towns.

Hall Green.—The meeting on Monday which Miss Saxley organised here was one more to be added to the large list of successful meetings arranged by Midland members. Many present had come for the first time, and it was gratifying to notice that not a single woman voted against the resolution, which was carried by a large majority.

Loughborough.—Miss Chilton and Miss Hardie arranged a splendid women's meeting in the Lecture Hall. Dr. Corcoran kindly presided, and I gave the address. The audience were warmly sympathetic, and I hope before long that a really strong centre will be formed in this town.

Nottingham.—This important town has a large number of active members. A sub-committee, composed of Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Evans, and Miss Burgis, organised a large reception in the Mechanics' Lecture Hall. The Rev. J. M. Lloyd Thomas, M.A., presided, and a number of prominent men and women of Nottingham were on the platform. At the close of my address Mr. C. L. Rothera supported the resolution, which condemned the action of the Liberal Government in imprisoning 420 women who had demanded political liberty, and called upon the Cabinet to introduce a measure next session to enfranchise qualified women. After questions had been answered, the resolution was carried unanimously and enthusiastically. A quantity of literature was sold, and thirty new members joined. We hope to establish offices in Nottingham before long in order that the work may be more effectively carried on.

The finances this week are:—Travelling expenses, 14s., 8s., and 8s. 6d.; collection, £1; donation from "Aurora Australis," 5s. 3d. Donations should be addressed to me at 49, Bristol Street, Birmingham.

Gladice G. Keevil.

#### YORKSHIRE.

Headquarters.—Bradford: 61, Manningham Lane, Workers' Meeting, Fri., 8 p.m.

At Homes.—Leeds: Arts Club, Blenheim Terrace, Woodhouse Lane, Wed., 8 p.m.

The meeting at Ingleton on Saturday, January 16, in spite of heavy snowstorms, was very successful, thanks to the work of the Misses Billing. Miss Crocker was the speaker, and on the following day she addressed the Bentham Debating Society at two meetings, and found the large audiences very sympathetic. We were delighted to have the opportunity of heckling Mr. Haldane, and seven of us managed to get in without difficulty, although we were told that the whole Halifax police force was on duty that night. On Tuesday, January 19, we held a good indoor meeting at Yeadon, and several indignant Liberals questioned us before we left as to the policy of opposing such a "progressive" Government as the present. Miss Hartland took the chair. Miss Crocker and I spoke. We are starting classes for speakers in Leeds, Bradford, and Huddersfield, and propose that the women should speak once to the class, and then go to the next Saturday afternoon meeting and take the chair. I think they will get over their nervousness much sooner in this way. On Saturday afternoon, following our usual practice, we held open-air meetings. Miss Crocker, Miss Urquhart, Miss Hartland, Miss Steventon, and Miss Roberts went to Clayton, near Bradford, and had a very good meeting. Mrs. Swales and I went to Rothwell, near Leeds, and I hope that next Saturday many more local women will join us. We have promises of four drawing-room meetings; the first will be on Monday, February 1. Several girls here, who are too young to join the N.W.S.P.U., have formed the "Bradford Young Suffragettes League," and I am going to speak to them on Tuesday, February 2. This week I have sent the Treasurer £1 from Ingleton meeting; £1 6s. 8d., Bentham Debat-



ing Society; 5s., Daisy Hill I.M. Debating Society, Bradford; 5s., Mrs. Lingard; 3s., sale of cakes after whist drive; 5s., collections; £2 3s. 9d., Yeoman meeting (tickets). **C. A. L. Marsh.**

**NEWCASTLE.**

**Headquarters.**—37, Rye Hill.  
**At Homes.**—Crosby's Café, Northumberland Street, Wednesdays, 3-5 and 8-10  
**Important Event.**—Town Hall, March 1, Mrs. Pankhurst.

We held a business meeting before the At Home last week, at which it was decided to ask headquarters to send us speakers on alternate Wednesdays from London. We are looking forward to having Miss Joachim next week, on February 3, and we hope members and friends will come in large numbers to welcome her and have the pleasure of listening to her. Mrs. Taylor presided at the At Home and made a telling speech, in which she encouraged us to action by telling us we have every chance of winning the vote next session "if only we make ourselves sufficiently disagreeable"! Mrs. Atkinson followed. She particularly urged the necessity for every woman to do her part towards making our cause victorious, even though it might cost her inconvenience or hardship. She told how gladly she had suffered imprisonment in the knowledge that she was helping to win freedom for women. We hope that their earnestness may be the means of inspiring and encouraging many new workers to put aside timidity and self-consciousness, and to come out and help openly. Northumberland must give Mrs. Pankhurst a royal welcome on March 1, but in order to do so everyone must contribute her share towards the preparations. Especially we need helpers for paper-selling and other outdoor work in the daytime. Who will volunteer? Members are doing a thriving trade with their various branches of "Self-Denial" work. All offers of work, inquiries, or orders to be sent to me.

**Mary Phillips.**

**SCOTLAND.**

**Glasgow.**

**Office:** 141, Bath Street.  
**At Homes.**—141, Bath Street, Saturday, 3.30 p.m.  
**Important Events.**—Athenaeum, March 2, Mrs. Pankhurst.  
University, March 3, Mrs. Pankhurst.

The office in Bath Street, which was the earliest W.S.P.U. office opened in Scotland, has this month completed its first year of life. It says much for the energy and enthusiasm of our members that all the expenses of the office and organisation have been covered by local contributions, and the end of the year found us with a small balance in hand. This result has naturally encouraged us to plan a much wider scheme of work for 1909. During the autumn ten large public meetings were held in Scotland, besides a large number of At Homes, drawing-room and open air meetings, etc. The literature sales in Glasgow alone amounted to over £26 in the three months, without counting Edinburgh, Stirling, etc., and the average weekly sale of VOTES FOR WOMEN in December was over seven times greater than that of September. Of course, we intend to break all these records this year. The first big spring meeting will be held in the Athenaeum on March 2, when Mrs. Pankhurst will be the principal speaker. It is a good many months since Mrs. Pankhurst visited Scotland, as she was unable to fulfil the engagements made for her last October, so we are especially anxious to make this meeting a great success. Further announcements concerning it will be made shortly. Another plan we have for the spring is to hold weekly At Homes in the Charing Cross Halls every Saturday in February and March, as the space available at the office is now too limited for our needs. The time will be changed to 3 o'clock, and announcements of speakers will be found in the "Programme of Events." Many of our members, however, are engaged during the day, and for these we are arranging a series of At Homes on Thursday evenings at 8 o'clock, to be held at the office, 141, Bath Street. Both these and the Saturday At Homes are open not only to members and friends, but to all who are interested in Votes for Women. No special card of admission is necessary, but invitations, giving particulars of time, place, etc., will be sent to anyone who applies for them. We especially ask our members to help in making these meetings known by sending out cards of invitation to anyone they think likely to be interested, and by bringing their friends. The first evening At Home will be held on Thursday, February 4. Those who do not speak themselves and cannot conveniently arrange to give drawing-room meetings can yet do a great deal in this way. Then we are anxious to increase the sale of VOTES FOR WOMEN, not only for propaganda purposes, but also in order to decrease the large amount of correspondence and notices which are sent out from the office by making the paper a successful means of communication between us and our members. Miss Underwood, who has been so successful in organising this work during the autumn, has now an additional plan, which can be carried out by those who are unable to assist in the street sales. We hope that everyone who has a little time to spare, particularly during the day, will communicate with her, and see what they can do to help in carrying it out. It was very nice to find on coming back that the number of our street sellers had been augmented during the holidays. Other very welcome news to us who are working in Glasgow is the fact that

there is now a W.S.P.U. organiser working in Edinburgh and another in Aberdeen. Our other plans for the spring will be given next week.

**G. M. Conolan.**

**Aberdeen.**

**Office:** Crown Mansions, 41½ Union Street.  
**At Homes.**—Music Hall, Round Room, Mondays, 3-5 p.m.  
Crown Mansions, 41½ Union Street, Thursdays, 7.30-9.30 p.m.  
**Important Event.**—The Music Hall, March 5, Mrs. Pankhurst.

The first of the N.W.S.P.U. At Homes (to be held every Monday afternoon from 3 to 5 in the Round Room of the Music Hall) took place last Monday, and was exceedingly successful. The room was decorated with flags and flowers in the colours, and the six ladies who kindly acted as stewards wore white dresses and the N.W.S.P.U. regalia. Miss Phillips, who took the chair for me, gave an interesting account of the work already done by the local workers in Aberdeen. The audience were evidently deeply interested in what we had to tell them about votes for women and the N.W.S.P.U. On Wednesday the office in Crown Mansions, 41½, Union Street, was opened, and the reporters from both the daily and evening papers came in to interview me, and gave us very good notices. On the same evening we gave bills to the people waiting outside the theatre, in order to advertise the Thursday evening At Home—the first that we had held in the new office. The speakers' class, which began last Friday, will, I think, do good work and become popular. The budding orators who attended its first meeting made considerable progress even in the one evening, and are now busily preparing more ambitious speeches for next week. On Saturday morning we chalked notices on the pavement at several important strategic points in order to advertise the next Monday afternoon At Home; and in the evening I spoke to some of the women University students. The furnishing of the office has put us to considerable expense here, in spite of the kind help of Miss Rhind, Mrs. Mennie, Mrs. Webster, and Mrs. and Miss Ogston, who have all given us furniture, and of Mrs. MacKinnon and Mr. W. Jameson, who have done something to assist in paying for what we have bought. The upkeep of the office, the At Homes in the Round Room, and the other work now being initiated here are all of vital importance if the people of Aberdeen are really to be turned into enthusiastic adherents of the vote for women cause. But these things cannot be done without money, and I therefore appeal most urgently to local women Suffragists to give generously to our Aberdeen campaign fund. Collecting cards have also been printed, which can be obtained on application.

**E. Sylvia Pankhurst.**

**Edinburgh.**

**Shop:** 100, Hanover Street, Workers' Meeting, Mondays, 8 p.m.  
**At Homes.**—Green Café, Wednesdays (evening).  
Society of Arts, 117, George Street, Thursdays (afternoon).  
**Important Event.**—The Synod, March 4, Mrs. Pankhurst.

Thanks to the kind and generous help of our Edinburgh supporters, our campaign of preparation for Mrs. Pankhurst's coming visit has made an excellent start, and we feel very hopeful as to the results. We have taken a shop in a capital situation (100, Hanover Street), which promises to be a useful centre of operations. A reception will be held every Thursday in the Society of Arts Hall, 117, George Street, which holds about 300 people. Mrs. James Ivory has kindly consented to take the chair on our opening, Thursday (January 28), which we are very anxious to make a great success, while I am to speak on the historical aspect of the suffrage question, which is creating much interest here. Miss Esson Maule and Miss Dempster have kindly offered to provide the tea. Then on Wednesday, February 3, we are beginning a series of evening At Homes in the Green Café for those who cannot attend on the Thursday afternoons. These will be worked up by dinner hour meetings at the various works, places of business, etc. That we have been able to get through so much already is largely owing to the invaluable help of Mrs. Ivory, who has most generously placed her time and her motor at my disposal, and has thus enabled me to do in a day or two what would otherwise have taken at least a week to accomplish. Mr. Ivory is kindly lending us the furniture for our shop, which we hope to make very attractive. Edinburgh artists who wish us well—and there are many of them—are earnestly asked for their advice and help. We shall be delighted to see them at 100, Hanover Street. It has been very pleasant to see up here some familiar London faces. Mrs. Morley Fletcher, whose kind hospitality I have been enjoying, is as keen a supporter of the cause in Edinburgh as she was in London, and her sister, Miss Gladys Brown, is devoting all her afternoon time to the work. Miss Florence Haig, too, has been using her holiday to help, and her sisters, Miss C. W. and Miss E. C. Haig, are doing all they can to make the March meeting a record of the kind in Edinburgh. We are holding a workers' meeting every Monday evening at the shop in Hanover Street at 8 p.m., to which I shall be very glad indeed to welcome anyone who wishes to be put in the way of helping us in our present campaign.

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LOCAL NOTES.

**Barnes W.S.P.U.**—We held a debate in Byfield Hall on Thursday last, when Miss Naylor spoke for Votes for Women, and Mr. Rand opposed. The chair was taken by Miss Howse, who put the resolution, "That women be granted the Parliamentary franchise on the same terms as it is now, or may be in the future, granted to men." Both Miss Naylor and Mr. Rand made capital speeches, and afterwards the debate was thrown open. The resolution was carried with a majority of seventeen, but a large number of the audience abstained from voting at all. The hall was quite full, and altogether a very interesting evening was spent. We are holding a members' meeting on February 1 to talk over plans for the future.

**Brighton and Hove W.S.P.U.**—We are still working hard for our two large meetings in the Hove Town Hall and the Dome. The first of these is to be held on Saturday, January 30, at 8 p.m. Miss Hare will preside, and Miss Helen Ogston, B.Sc., will be the principal speaker. The second meeting will be held in the Dome on Tuesday, February 2, at 8 p.m., when Mrs. Pankhurst will speak and Mrs. R. Massy will preside. The National Union must have been endowed with the gift of second sight in sending Miss Helen Ogston as organiser to Brighton; everyone is delighted with her, and all workers, members, and friends are doing their utmost, under her skilful guidance, to make Mrs. Pankhurst's meeting in the Dome a great success. The drawing-room meeting on Tuesday, January 19, given by Mrs. Jones-Williams, was excellent, as also the meeting on Wednesday evening (20th) in Miss Schofield's studio. At the latter Miss Ogston finished the conversion of two anti-Suffragists, who are now chalking meetings for us, etc. The Wednesday afternoon open-air meeting on the front was a great success, the large audience listening with great attention; we also sold a fair quantity of literature. Thursday, 21st, we had a meeting outside the Congress Hall, Level, and Miss Ogston spoke for over an hour to a large and sympathetic audience; a number of questions was asked and literature sold. On Friday, 22nd, we distributed bills outside the Alhambra, where Mrs. Willie James had organised a performance in aid of the funds for the British Nurses' Association. A drawing-room meeting, kindly arranged by Miss Amington and Miss Wilmot Buxton, on Friday afternoon, 22nd, proved most successful. That same evening we had a very good meeting in the New Road Lecture Hall. Miss White presided and Miss Ogston spoke. Saturday, 23rd, as Miss Ogston had to go to town, the National Union kindly sent us Miss Douglas Smith, and our evening meeting at the New Road Lecture Hall was a most sympathetic one, the audience listening with great attention and no little amusement to Miss Douglas Smith's convincing and witty speech. Monday, 25th, we intend to hold an open-air meeting at 8 p.m. in a large space near Rutland Gardens, Hove, in order to push our campaign in that direction. Tuesday evening, 26th, Miss Ogston will address the Friends in the Meeting House, Ship Street, 8.15 p.m. Wednesday, 27th, open-air meeting on the front, weather permitting, 2.30. Thursday, 28th, Miss Ogston hopes to address the railwaymen at dinner-hour, 1.30, New England Road. In the afternoon Miss Denby has kindly arranged a drawing-room meeting for 8 p.m. Miss Hare has thoughtfully given us a room at her house for stewards to meet and arrange matters for Hove Town Hall and the Dome on Friday, 29th, at 7 p.m. Saturday, 30th, great public meeting in the Hove Town Hall at 8 p.m. We are arranging to introduce into Brighton several novel methods of advertising our Hove and Dome meetings. Brightonians, please note! Anyone wishing to help us in addressing envelopes, sale of tickets, chalking parties, advertising meetings, please call at Committee-rooms, 50, Preston Street.

ALICIA ROSE.

Mrs. Reginald Pott, £10; Miss Bidwell, £1 10s.; Miss Postlethwaite, £5; Miss Evelyn Sharp, £10; and Miss Warter, £10.

LOUISE M. EATES.

**Lewsham W.S.P.U.**—We held a meeting on Sunday at Deptford Broadway at 11.30 a.m. Mrs. Tanner was the speaker, and I took the chair. Our Committee will meet next Thursday to discuss ways and means of helping to make Self-Denial Week and the Exhibition a success.

J. A. BOUVIER.

**Sreatham and District W.S.P.U.**—Last Tuesday week a drawing-room meeting was held by this Union at Miss Willson's, 34, Ambleside Avenue. Miss Willson was in the chair, and Mrs. Mayer spoke for us on the gaining of the vote in Australia and the use the women had made of it there. The audience was keenly interested in all Mrs. Mayer said, and a lively debate took place over tea and coffee after the meeting was declared closed. Members of this Union are asked to make a special point of attending our drawing-room meetings, and to bring friends, if possible opposed to women's franchise or our tactics, as questions and discussions are invited, and the meetings are of an informal and friendly character.

N. E. SMITH.

MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS.

The Liverpool Education Committee have decided unanimously that a female teacher on the staff of an elementary school provided or maintained by the Committee shall, on marriage, resign her appointment, her marriage being held as equivalent in the case of head teachers to three months' notice of resignation, and in the case of assistant teachers to one month's notice of resignation.



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will do it. Isn't it worth trying?

**Brixton W.S.P.U.**—The drawing-room meeting held at 32, Wynne Road on the 22nd inst. proved most enjoyable. We all appreciated Miss Dugdale's most interesting and sympathetic address, which was followed by short speeches from some of our own members. My appeal for help in the forthcoming Exhibition met with a very good response, and I believe this Union will do its share towards making the Women's Exhibition the brilliant success we wish it to be.

I. G. McKEOWN.

K. S. TANNER.

**Forest Gate and Wanstead W.S.P.U.**—We held our first annual meeting on Tuesday, the 19th inst. It was very satisfactory to report the fact that our membership has increased from six to eighty-three. Altogether we held during our first year of existence fifty-five meetings, besides helping with two Town Hall meetings held at East Ham and Stratford by the National W.S.P.U. With regard to finances, we received altogether over £25 (not including a meeting at Stratford Town Hall which we organised for the National W.S.P.U.). We sold over £6 of literature during the year. As we number amongst our members several good vocalists, we have formed a choir, which Mrs. Harrison will conduct. We think that the singing of good Suffragist songs will prove a great attraction to our meetings.

M. E. SLEIGHT.

**Hendon W.S.P.U.**—First of all I wish to correct and apologise for an error in last week's notice. The "At Home" on February 3 will be given by Mrs. Wyatt, of Derby House, Hendon; will all who are able to be present please note? At our last Committee meeting we settled the preliminaries as to the work we are able to do for the Exhibition. Derby House will be the centre of industry, and we cordially invite all friends in the neighbourhood who have time for work, or who can supply materials or money, to communicate either with Mrs. Wyatt, at Derby House, or with me. Will members and friends in Mill Hill, Finchley, or Hampstead Garden Suburb please make a note of this and send their offers of help as soon as possible.

FRANCES V. CREATON.

**Kensington W.S.P.U.**—Mrs. Pankhurst's speeches are never happier than when she is addressing an informal gathering, and she seemed to get into touch with the sympathies of her audience at once at our crowded first "At Home" on Wednesday, January 20. She discussed the work and tactics of the Union, and urged all to take their share in the fight for justice, and gained immediate response when three of the women present volunteered to form part of the deputation to the House of Commons in February. Our annual general meeting was held on Friday, January 22, when the report of the year's work was presented and the Committee elected. Mrs. Charles Cape takes Miss Conolan's place as Hon. Treasurer, and the rest of the Committee remains unchanged, with the addition of Miss Postlethwaite. The question of stalls for the Exhibition was discussed at length, and we decided to ask for two stalls—one for books and one for general work. We hope to have details and suggestions to lay before our members next week. Mrs. Pankhurst has promised to come and see our shop next week, and we hope to have it ready for her inspection. Some furniture has been promised. Mrs. Baillie-Guthrie is providing a fine oak desk, Mrs. Charles Cape a table, Mrs. Reginald Pott shelves, Miss Bernsting chairs, and Miss Morrison a screen. No doubt many of our visitors will offer to supply deficiencies when they come to see our shop for the first time. It is to be opened on January 25. Our request for a guarantee fund has met with a ready response, and the following have promised their help:—Lady Home, £12 (£1 a month); Mrs. Charles Kerr, £10;

MEETINGS AT EDEN BRIDGE.

Two very successful meetings were held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Eden Bridge, on the afternoon and evening of January 20, when Miss Marie Naylor gave most interesting addresses. She was supported by Dr. Frances Ede and Mrs. Richmond, of Red Hill. It was originally intended to hold a meeting in the afternoon only, as it was thought this time would suit the women best, but a special request was made by some of the townsmen for an evening meeting. This meeting was very well attended, and a most attentive hearing was given to Miss Naylor. Question time at both meetings was much enjoyed. Many who attended the afternoon meeting returned again in the evening. At the house-to-house visitation to advertise the meeting much interest, and often sympathy, was shown. These are the first public meetings held on this subject in the district, and we feel greatly encouraged by the interest aroused.

GEORGINA MACRAE.

UNEMPLOYED WOMEN AND MR. ASQUITH.

Owing to the unsatisfactory result of recent correspondence between the Women's Labour League and the Prime Minister, a meeting attended by 1,200 people, including 500 unemployed women, took place at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, on Thursday. It was stated that of 1,254 women who had registered themselves in the various districts, work had been provided for only 267. A resolution was unanimously passed indignantly protesting against the inadequate provision for women under the Unemployed Workmen Act in London and elsewhere; demanding that the present workrooms should be increased in number and enlarged in scope; that country colonies for fruit picking, poultry rearing, dairy farming, etc., should be started in order to meet the necessities of the unemployed women dependent on their own earnings; and that these schemes should be planned so as to be not merely a temporary aid, but a help to permanent employment.

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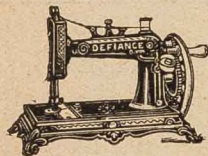
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