

Women's Freedom League

TEMPORARY NEWS SHEET.

Telephone : 5905 ROYAL.
SCOTTISH OFFICE : 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Hon. Treasurer : MRS. WOOD.

Hon. Secretary : MISS KIRBY.

Telegrams : "Tactics, Glasgow."

Telephone : 15143 CENTRAL.

NATIONAL OFFICES : 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Hon. Secretary : MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.SC. A.R.C.S.

Hon. Treasurer : MISS BENETT.

Hon. Organizing Secretary : MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

President : MRS. DESPARD.

Telegrams : "Tactics, London."

No. 3.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1909.

ONE HALFPENNY.

The General Election.

THE General Election is coming ! Authorities differ as to the probable date, but all are united in the conviction that it cannot be delayed for more than a few months.

Zeus is polishing up his political thunderbolts in a terrific hurry. "The Rights of the Democracy are in Danger. Shall not those who pay the piper call the tune ? Shall the duly elected representatives of the people be over-ruled ?" All the well-worn ammunition is to be made to do service over again. It will be aimed well ; we have no doubt of that. The Budget League has been offering excellent opportunities for sharp shooting of this kind for some time now. M.P.s, tied day and night to the benches at Westminster during the week, have fled down to their constituencies at the week-end, to beg their simple followers to trust in them and keep their powder dry. Cabinet Ministers have been reluctantly driven by the whips of self-interest and Party (most exigent of taskmasters !) to leave the shy retirement in which they habitually dwell to-day, and, bravely facing the dangers of women and war, have stood upon a public platform once again. Surrounded, needless to say, by a triple guard of police.

Even Mr. Asquith has ventured into the arena, and to Mr. Asquith belongs the honour of having spoken the truth to a public meeting—an extraordinary achievement for a politician this ; but honour to whom honour is due, even if it be only by accident.

In his speech at Birmingham on September 18th he said : "For years past the people have been beguiled by unfulfilled promises, or put off by meagre, and to a large extent delusive, instalments." But yet, even after this frank declaration by the leader of the Liberal party as to the untrustworthiness and worthless character of his pledges—for we imagine that even Mr. Asquith would hardly have the temerity to except his own Government from this general charge—no doubt the same old policy of bluff will be pursued. At the general election the people—who in this country it must be remembered are of one sex only—will swallow once again the noble sentiment and high-sounding platitudes that will be, as they always have been, freely uttered from every Liberal platform.

Meanwhile, that section of the community which, having suffered most cruelly from the broken pledges of Governments and private members in the past, is most keenly alive to the nature of electioneering tactics, is consistently excluded from the political world and from public meetings by the elected champions of freedom and the people's rights. And this in the face of Mr. Asquith's bare-faced assertion that the Government is "removing artificial obstacles and hindrances to national development on natural lines ; breaking down the domination of monopolies and opening everywhere the gate to intelligence, to merit, and to energy !"

The women whose eyes are opened, whose "intelligence, merit, and energy" have been persistently denied by this present Government, are, as much as the Prime Minister himself, "not only ready but anxious, not only anxious but eager" for the coming battle. It behoves, therefore, more especially every Liberal woman to take to heart Mr. Asquith's cynical assertion of the worthlessness of election promises, to recognize that while she is content to be a sweated political worker in the Government camp she is placing a drag upon the wheels of progress, and delaying that time when women shall receive their just and adequate political wages. Our rôle in the coming election must not be that of Liberal, Socialist, or Tory. As party agents we are weak, to be exploited and then cast aside by unscrupulous politicians. As women we are strong. Firm, united, determined, fighting for our political existence, and for honourable terms of life, we shall be a power not to be ignored in the strife and turmoil of the general election.

"The Vote."

A Special Meeting will be held on

FRIDAY, 16th OCTOBER,

IN

THE CAXTON HALL

For all those who are or ought to be interested in the coming of

'The Vote,' the new Freedom League Weekly Paper.

SPEAKERS—

Mrs. DESPARD

Miss MARIE LAWSON

Mrs. HOLMES

Mrs. ARNCLIFFE SENNETT

Chair—Mrs. HOW MARTYN.

On this occasion we hope to hear all the little plans and surprises that are being arranged up at the Offices of the Minerva Publishing Company, at 148, Holborn Bars, for the first issue.

COME YOURSELF, AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS !

Call at 1, Robert Street and get handbills
for distribution.

Our Work—Past, Present, and Future.

WORK IN MANCHESTER.

Hon. Organizer, Miss M. E. MANNING, B.A.

THE great event of the week in the Manchester district has been the visit of Mrs. Despard, who addressed a very large meeting on Tuesday night at St. Peter's Old School, Swinton.

Organizer's Address: Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire. The Swinton people gave her a glorious reception; the room was crowded, and the large audience listened to the eloquent address with rapt attention.

On Friday, Mrs. Borrmann-Wells visited Manchester, the secretaries of the branches of the Manchester district and the Chester Branch met her at Harper Hill, Sale, to discuss arrangements for winter work.

LIVERPOOL AND NORTH WALES.

Organizers: MISS BROADHURST, M.A. MISS M. M. FARQUHARSON, M.A.

Monday was spent in seeing halls in Liverpool and district, and in arranging dates and order of future meetings. The intention is to have a series of smaller hall meetings, working up for our big campaign, which has been definitely fixed for November.

Liverpool Headquarters: meetings, working up for our big campaign, which has been definitely fixed for November. If energy and enthusiasm can produce their usual effect, this campaign will outshine anything that has yet been done in Liverpool.

Our visiting in Liverpool on Thursday resulted in definite promises of a drawing-room meeting, and an offer of an entertainment for our funds. With so much work in hand we need as much money as we can possibly get together, and confidently appeal for support even from friends at a distance for the carrying on, and consolidating of our work in this large area.

Friday we gave up to Chester, and although the morning meeting was interrupted by the police, yet enough time was given so that the evening meeting more than fully made up for the cutting short of our morning one.

MARGARET MILNE FARQUHARSON.

NEWS FROM EDINBURGH.

WE have carried on our afternoon At Homes during September, and they have proved quite as successful as in the early summer. Last Tuesday we were fortunate in having with us Mrs. Fagan and Mrs. Beith, who charmed their audience.

These ladies the same evening, in a perfect downpour of rain, addressed an open-air meeting, and we did not know why to admire most—the pluck of the women or the keen interest of the crowd which could so defy the weather.

Our Cake and Apron Sale promises well. We hear of much work coming in; and as side shows we have arranged for Palmists, Concerts, and, as a novelty, a mock trial of two Suffragettes, with correct Court procedure.

For 9th October we have organized an open-air demonstration. Brakes will be decorated in our colours, and Women's Freedom League, in large letters, will appear on each vehicle.

Miss Jacob has, almost single-handed, undertaken the decorations, and is working quite late and very early to have them complete; and to help defray expenses we have received donations—from Mrs. Fagan 5s., Mrs. Beith 5s., Dr. Margaret Young 1l., and from Miss Meister and Miss Muir 1s. each.

Speakers on that day will be Misses Eunice Murray, Munro, Semple, and Olive Robertson. A. B. J.

GLASGOW AND DISTRICT CAMPAIGN.

Organizers: MISS ANNA MUNRO, MISS MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

FEWER meetings have been held this week, as most of our energies were employed in advertising the demonstration on Glasgow Green. However, open-air meetings have been held at the Royal Exchange, Mains Street, County Square, Paisley, and at Whitehill Street.

Indoor meetings were addressed in the Albany Galleries and the Masonic Hall. At Mains Street and at Paisley the women were most enthusiastic, and had but little patience with hecklers.

At Paisley we found a large crowd waiting for us when we arrived ten minutes before the time to begin the meeting.

On Wednesday evening a splendid meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, when Mr. D. M. Mason, prospective Liberal candidate for the Tradeston division of Glasgow, took the chair, and made a splendid speech in which he denounced the attitude of various members of the Government, and upheld the women's claim in bold, straightforward words.

Miss Matters made one of her eloquent and philosophic speeches, and I also addressed the meeting.

Thursday and Friday were devoted to chalking for the demonstration, and to "sandwich" work. This latter was received with great sympathy and interest. The reception was most encouraging, fashionable ladies hurrying to the gutter to take the tickets we distributed along the route.

The week's work terminated with the Glasgow Green demonstration which, according to The Citizen has "been boomed with that persistency and thoroughness which is characteristic of Suffragettes." MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY, Organizer.

HYDE PARK.

At the usual mid-day meeting on Sunday an imposing crowd gathered to hear the League speakers. The Hyde Park audiences are rapidly passing from acquiescence to enthusiasm, and show signs of responding to a call for something more than merely passing sympathy.

Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett enlisted the sympathies and the sense of humour of the crowd in her usual inimitable style. Point after point told: men found themselves laughing heartily at inherent masculine weaknesses, and responding with equal heartiness to the idea that a little feminine criticism and common-sense would have the happiest effect upon public life.

Special Notices.

MRS. GILCHRIST THOMPSON, herself a Welshwoman, has generously offered to pay the salary of an additional organizer for Wales to assist Miss Matters in her campaign.

KIND home wanted for a caravan! Will any member undertake to look after it for the winter? Stable room is all that is wanted.

Actresses' "At Home."

THE President, Mrs. Kendal, and Vice-Presidents of the Actresses' Franchise League are "At Home" on Friday, October 1st at 3 o'clock in the Grand Hall of the Criterion, and will be delighted to welcome all members of the Freedom League who would care to be present.

A Representative Contribution to our "Picketers."

ALTHOUGH Mr. Lloyd George's Budget seems to arouse great disagreement in the House of Commons, the following note per the Hon. Coralie Glyn will show that the Women's Freedom League Budget is contributed to from all parties outside the same House.

If you cannot stand for freedom, then will you stand for paying some of its bills? S. B.

BRAVO! PICKETS!

IN token of appreciation of the devoted services rendered by our brave and loyal pickets, the following sums are presented to the Women's Freedom League, per Hon. C. Glyn, on behalf of—

Table with 3 columns: Donor, Amount (£ s. d.), Total (£1 2 6)

Cash Received September 12th to 25th.

Large table with 3 columns: Description, Amount (£ s. d.), Total (£3,748 4 9)

amusement, but much serious appreciation was evident, and in the excellent discussion that followed many well thought-out points were raised and decided to the satisfaction of the audience.

The Siege and Picketers' Reunion.

AS the clock struck seven last Thursday evening the ten thousandth hour, in aggregate, of our special siege of the House of Commons was completed. Ten thousand hours! Some one given to statistics has worked it out as 1 year, 51 days, and 16 hours!

To celebrate this jubilee a Picketers' Reunion was held on Thursday evening at 60, Onslow Gardens, kindly lent by Mrs. Hylton Dale. All the pickets assembled at the House of Commons, and as the clock struck seven there was a dramatic laying aside of sashes and petitions.

Mrs. Hylton Dale gave them a cordial welcome in her opening speech as chairman, in which she referred to the enormous effect that this silent protest had exercised upon the mind of the country. Then followed Dr. Constance Long, Miss Chapin, Mrs. H. W. Nevinson, Mrs. Merevale Mayer, and Miss Langmore, who gave accounts of their experiences during the midnight hours of their weary vigils.

The reception ended with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Hylton Dale, and the pickets went off to take up again their duty at the House, ready, if need be, to keep up the siege until the 20,000th hour shall have sounded.

Meantime these little badges in green and white and gold, towards which so many curious eyes are turned in the streets, remain with those of us who have had the good fortune to earn them as a precious souvenir of perhaps the greatest service we have been able to render to the cause of woman's freedom. M. N.

The Passing from Politics

OF H. H. A.

ASQUITH had a nightmare

That turned his hair like snow, And everywhere that Asquith went That nightmare used to go.

It's name was Woman Suffrage, "But it never can come true!"

Cried Asquith, yet, in spite of that, He lost his ruddy hue.

But one terrible day in the Commons,

On his speech he was gaily afloat,

When Winston Churchill came racing in,

"The Women have got The Vote!"

Asquith stammered and stuttered and quickly sat down,

He gurgled in his throat.

And tenderly, kindly they bore him away,

But he never recovered that terrible day,

When the women determined they would have their say,

And the Freedom League published The Vote!

The Suffrage Shop.

Further list of Donations and Guarantees.

	DONATIONS.			GUARANTEES.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged ...	42	4	6	26	1	0
Mrs. Sadd Brown ...	5	0	0	5	0	0
Miss Seruya ...	25	0	0	25	0	0
Mr. Kennedy ...	0	10	0			
Mrs. Thomas ...	0	5	0			
Mrs. R. Gillett ...				2	0	0
Mrs. de Vismes ...				1	0	0
Miss Sizer ...	0	5	0			
Miss McCarron ...	0	15	0			
Total ...	£73	19	6	£59	1	0

In last week's list the name Mrs. Ersling should have been Mrs. Gosling.
A. M. H.

PORTMAN ROOMS.—"AT HOMES."

Every Wednesday, 3—5 P.M.

	Speakers.	Chair.
Oct. 6.	Mrs. Despard, Miss Sidley	Mrs. How Martyn
— 13.	Mrs. Despard, Mr. Laurence Housman	Countess Russell
— 20.	Mrs. Cobden - Sanderson, Mr. Joseph Clayton	Lady Harberton
— 27.	Mr. McCabe	Mrs. Nidd
Nov. 3.	Mrs. How Martyn	Miss Logan
— 10.	Mr. Laurence Housman	Mrs. Hicks
— 17.	Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett	Mrs. Hylton Dale
— 24.	Mrs. Nevinson, Mrs. Amy Sanderson	Mrs. How Martyn
Dec. 1.	Mrs. Despard	Mrs. Fagan
— 8.	Mrs. Holmes, Mr. Joseph Clayton	Miss Benett
— 15.	Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett	Mrs. Cope
	Evenings Meetings, 7.30 to 9.30.	
Oct. 25.	Mrs. Sanderson, Miss Cicely Hamilton	Mrs. How Martyn
Nov. 26.	Miss Margaret McMillan, Mr. John Russell, M.A.	Mrs. Nevinson

Branch Notes.

CENTRAL BRANCH.—Don't forget our Social Evening to-night, Thursday 30th, at 8 P.M., at Allen's Tea Rooms, Oxford Circus. Mrs. How Martyn and Miss Margaret McMillan.

Our Jumble Sale, in aid of the funds, will be on October 23rd. Will every member send, or get friends to send some things which we can sell? All goods to be sent to Dr. O. Lewin, 25, Wimpole Street, W. A Debate is being arranged between The Men's League for opposing Women's Suffrage and ourselves early in November.
P. H.

DUNDEE BRANCH.—A record attendance signalled our first "At Home" for the season, at which Miss Clunas, our brave Secretary, was the principal speaker. Miss Husband presided, and in her opening remarks testified to our pride in "Dundee's First Prisoner for the Cause."

Miss Clunas went fully into the details of her arrest and subsequent imprisonment, and the intense stillness of her audience, broken at times by ripples of merriment, showed that she had their quick sympathy as she told the grave and gay sides of prison life. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Miss Clunas at the close.

Our usual branch meeting was held last Tuesday, when a good deal of discussion took place on the policy to be pursued in the event of a General Election. A motion was also passed protesting against the presence on the Bench of a local leading Liberal, when the women who had protested at Mr. Samuel's meeting were brought up for sentence. A letter was read from Mr. Winston Churchill, M.P., stating the conditions under which he would receive a deputation from our branch when he next visits Dundee. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Churchill and point out to him that he had already promised twice to see a deputation, without any conditions attached. We are thus awaiting developments.
J. A. S.

POTTERIES BRANCH.—Having tried house to house visiting without much success, we resolved to hold open-air meetings, and our first was in Burslem Market Place on the evening of the 15th. Mrs. Massey writes: "The crowd was large, mainly men, and orderly and attentive. I feel sure they were most interested and sympathetic. I took the chair and Mrs. Lawton gave the address, a most excellent one. I can't describe my sensations when I mounted the chair, I simply had to make myself do it. Perhaps it would be easier to me another time." From Mrs. Pedley, our Secretary, I hear: "Mrs. Lawton and I had another splendid meeting in Burslem, Wednesday evening (22nd). Mrs. Lawton addressed about 500 people, and then questions were asked and satisfactory replies given. I had to preside, as Mrs. Massey was ill and Mrs. Gough (Vice-President) is forbidden to speak in the open. I made a collection,

and got 11½d., a little improvement on last week. We may have another meeting next week." I should like to say that this is pioneer work against heavy odds, so I am sure every branch should "make" itself do likewise.
SARAH BENETT (President).

CHESTER BRANCH.—On Friday, 24th, Miss Broadhurst, M.A., and Miss Farquharson, M.A., came over to hold two open-air meetings. Cestrians, as yet, are not used to the ways of Suffragettes, as few open-air meetings have been held. They were somewhat surprised (dare we say disappointed?) that no bricks were thrown, and no one was arrested—in fact, all was in keeping with the tone of a respectable cathedral city.

The meetings had been advertised for noon and 8 P.M. in the Market Square. When the speakers arrived at the rendezvous at midday a large crowd collected, so large, in fact, that, as the traffic was already congested, owing to the road being repaired, the chief constable had to move them on. They then went to the Cattle Market. Here the meeting was continued. The chair was taken by Miss Margery Taylor, who in a few well-chosen sentences introduced Miss Farquharson. Permission was obtained to hold the evening meeting in the Market Square, and the speakers found a large crowd awaiting them. Miss Broadhurst opened the meeting, explained the objects of the Women's Freedom League, and gave the case for Woman's Suffrage in a most convincing way. Miss Farquharson followed, and explained militant tactics, and the need for them. At the end, there was a demand for badges, while again and again one heard "I wonder when they are coming next"—when they do, a welcome is assured.
N. S.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

September 30th to December 11th.

Picketing at the House of Commons, Thursday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, from 2.45; Friday, 12—5.

SEPT.		P.M.
Thurs. 30.	to Oct. 2. Dumfries Campaign	Miss Marguerite Sidley
Thurs. 30.	Allen's Tea Rooms, Oxford Circus	Miss Margaret McMillan 8 Mrs. How Martyn
OCT.		
Fri. 1.	The Criterion	Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, 3 Miss E. Robins, and Miss Gertrude Kingston
	Hampstead, The Library, Prince Arthur Road	Miss Muriel Nelson, 8
	Winders Road, Battersea Park Road	Mr. Duval, Miss Fennings 7.30
Sat. 2.	Edinburgh Cake and Candy Sale	Miss Eunice Murray
	Edinburgh, Livingstone Hall (Cake and Apron Sale)	Chair, Mrs. How Martyn, 2.30 Miss Eunice Murray
Sun. 3.	Clapham Common	Miss Fennings, Mr. Duval 5
Mon. 4.	Masebury Road, Lavender Hill	Miss Underwood, and 7.30 others
Tues. 5.	Café Vegetaria "At Home," Edinburgh	Parish Councillor 8 Miss Lees
Wed. 6.	Portman Rooms, Baker St. "At Home"	Chair, Hostesses, 3 Lady Treacher Mrs. Ennis Richmond
	Taybridge Road, Lavender Hill Southall	Mr. Duval, and others 7.30 Mrs. Despard
Sat. 9.	Edinburgh Open Air	Miss Munro, 2
	Demonstration, Rally at Castle Terrace	Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Semple, Miss Olive Robertson
Thurs. 14.	Highbury, Northampton House	Miss Muriel Nelson, M.A.
Wed. 20.	Eastbourne Town Hall	Chair, Mrs. How Martyn Mr. Laurence Housman
Thurs. 21.	Kilmarnock	Mrs. Despard
Fri. 22.	Leith	Mrs. Despard
Sat. 23.	Jumble Sale (Central Branch), Tolmen Square Institute, Hampstead Road	
Mon. 25.	Evening "At Home," Portman Rooms	Mrs. Sanderson 7.30—9.30 Miss Cicely Hamilton
	Govan	Mrs. Despard
Tues. 26.	Partick	Mrs. Despard
Wed. 27.	Glasgow "At Home"	Mrs. Despard
Thurs. 28.	Denniston	Mrs. Despard
Fri. 29.	Govan	Mrs. Despard
NOV.		
Wed. 3.	Debate, Small Queen's Hall	Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett (Representing W.F.L.) Mr. MacConochie, Barrister-at-Law (representing Men's League for opposing Woman's Suffrage)
DEC.		
Sat. 11.	Yuletide Festival, Albert Hall	3—10.30