

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE).

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Fateful Diplomacy.

We are glad to see that recent revelations as to the nature of that fateful word, diplomacy, are arousing indignant protest. When we learn how near we were to war last summer and on a question which only concerned us through a friendly Power, we do well to be angry and demand to know why we are kept in ignorance of such momentous possibilities. Sir Edward Grey's statement in the House of Commons last Monday has by no means allayed anxiety. The Liberal Press has been more severely critical of the policy of secret entanglements than even the Unionist organs, and demands that the friendship with France and acquiescence in whatever Russia chooses to do, shall not involve the awful risk of war with Germany. When the Editor of the *Daily News* writes and signs a scathing article against secret diplomacy, things have come to a bad pass. We feel strongly on this matter because the nation consists of men and women: their interests are one. Indeed, in the case of actual war the sufferings of women are as keen and keener than those of men. The deplorable situation demands that the woman's voice shall have the right to make itself heard with the voice of the men and by the lever of the vote, so that in the future such dire risks to the nation and the world shall be made impossible.

The Immediate Need.

In view of recent events, and the obvious fact that we do not know what a day may bring forth, it is needful that Suffragists, women and men, should co-operate in every possible way to ensure the removal of sex disability in the franchise laws of our land. Never was the need greater. From all workers for the Cause there has arisen the cry that to leave women out of a Government measure which is to enfranchise practically all men is an insult; if carried to the extreme of passing into law, it will involve that most terrible of dangers—a sex war. The Government must understand that women will not bow to such an insult. Whatever methods are pursued, determination is the pressing need of the moment—determination to insist upon our inclusion in the Bill. We of the Women's

Freedom League hold militancy as a weapon in reserve as yet, but it rests with every member to do something to help in what is, we trust, the last stage in our struggle for recognition as citizens. Earnestness can always find a way for service; the pressure of public opinion is invaluable. Wherever we may be, we have it in our power to make our influence felt on this question, and no one should think her influence too small to be of any account. In such service there is "no great nor small." Even if plans of personal service are difficult, we may all remember that contributions to the Treasury furnish the sinews of war.

The Duty of Our Friends.

On our friends falls the duty of taking a bold stand on our side, and the more exalted their position, the greater the responsibility. The deputation to Earl Beauchamp last Monday evoked a definite declaration of agreement with the enfranchisement of women on the ground that many pressing reforms cannot be carried through until women can make their views effective through the vote. It also resulted in a promise to speak on behalf of woman's Suffrage and to vote for the amendment which commands the greatest support in the House of Commons. Sir Edward Grey, as will be seen in another column, has spoken with no uncertain voice; similarly Mr. McKenna has enunciated his "anti" views. It behoves such a man as Lord Morley, for instance, to be equally frank, and lend his aid by supporting words with actions.

Mr. Lloyd George's Oratory.

We welcome declarations of supporters, but from such a professed friend as the Chancellor of the Exchequer we want more than the torrent of words with which he favoured the Liberal gathering at Bath last Friday. There was no ratification of his promise to move the woman's amendment to the Government's Bill, and though he worked on the emotional side of his audience with flowing sentences about woman's value, whether as custodian of the cupboard, the successful manager of business, or the preventer of war, he did not announce any plan, and secure wide assent to it from the members of his own Party, by which woman is to be no longer slave but helpmate. Mr. Lloyd George is running the Woman's Cause as a Party measure; the Prime Minister refuses to take it up because it cuts across the ordinary lines of Party-cleavage. It is significant that the *Glasgow Herald* declares that because a wide extension of the franchise to women cuts across the present Party divisions, it would produce results which on the whole would make for ordered and stable government. If Mr. Lloyd George is to be acclaimed as a leader, he must do more than talk—he must lead.

Is it Prophetic?

In ways that are sometimes surprising we find the Cause of votes for women makes itself felt. An instance in point is the last meeting at Cardiff of the Commercial Travellers' Association at which a Mock Parliamentary Election was held. It was a three-cornered contest between a Conservative and a Liberal and a Suffragette. The candidates held their meetings; each addressed the voters; each was duly heckled, and, in the end, these keen business men sent the Suffragette to Parliament at the head of the poll with 107 votes, against 44 for the Conservative and 29 for the Liberal.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

Branch secretaries are reminded that resolutions for the Conference and nominations of members for the National Executive Committee should reach this office before December 1. The Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League will be held at Caxton Hall, Saturday and Sunday, January 27 and 28, and all members of our League are invited to attend the Conference.

London Meetings.—A meeting for members only will be held Friday evening, December 1, at Caxton Hall, to discuss the Conference and the political situation. The chair will be taken at eight o'clock by Mrs. Despard, and every member in London is urged to make a special effort to be present.

All friends in London are cordially invited to the "At Home" we are holding at Caxton Hall, Thursday afternoon, November 30, at 3.30. The speakers will be Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Nevinson, and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Cope. We also look forward with pleasure to welcoming Madame Teresa del Riego, the composer of "The Awakening," who has so kindly promised to sing it for us on this occasion.

Wednesday evening, December 6, Mrs. How Martyn will open a discussion at the Lower Essex Hall, on "The Women's Platform in *The Standard*," and the chair will be taken by Miss Nina Boyle at eight o'clock.

Kensington.—Thursday, December 7, our Kensington Branch will hold an "At Home" for members and friends in the Lecture Hall, 46, Queen's-road, Bayswater, at 8.30 p.m. The speakers will be Miss Nina Boyle and Mr. G. E. O'Dell, and the chairman, Miss C. V. Tite.

Saturday afternoon, December 9, at 3.30, a debate will take place at Queen's Gate Hall, near South Kensington Station, between Miss Gladys Pott and Miss Nina Boyle on "Votes or No Votes for Women." Tickets 2s. 6d. and 1s. each.

Literature Department.—"The Immoral Effects of Ignorance in Sex Relations," by Laurence Housman, price 4d., is now on sale. We also have in the colours a new tricolor enamel on silver bar brooch, price 2s.; notepaper, 1s. a box; Christmas cards, 2d. each; calendars, 6d. and 3d., &c. Will country purchasers order early for Christmas, in view of the possibility of a railway strike?

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

MONTGOMERY BURGHS.

Welsh audiences have not always accorded so courteous a hearing to Suffragists as they have done this autumn. After the special political campaign organised by Miss A. M. Clark, during which every resolution was enthusiastically carried, Mrs. Despard gave two days to the Burghs, November 22 and 23, and was received there not only with courtesy, but with the kindest welcome.

On the 22nd inst., the Town Hall at Llanfyllin was crowded, many failing to gain admittance. Mr. Busch-Michell presided, and in his opening remarks said he was glad to think the success of the Woman's Suffrage Movement was at last looming in the near distance. Mrs. Despard spoke to the following resolution:

That this meeting indignantly protests against the passage of any measure dealing with Electoral Reform which does not confer on women the same rights as it confers on men; but notes with satisfaction Mr. Asquith's pledge that if any amendment extending the franchise to women is passed by Parliament, it shall form an integral part of the Government Bill.

This was carried with only one dissentient, Mrs. Despard's magnificent speech having evidently carried conviction as well as aroused enthusiasm.

Thursday, November 23, the Newtown "At Home" showed the extraordinary organising talent of Miss Clark in making success certain. Mrs. Edward Powell, of Plasbyryn, presided. On the platform were Mr. Edward Powell, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Busch-Michell, Crosswood, Welshpool, Mrs. Frances Lewis, Aberdovey, and Miss Alix Minnie Clark (hon. secretary). Mrs. Powell, in a short but interesting introductory speech, explained that she did not belong to any Suffrage Society. The question of Women Suffrage was a non-party one. It was national, and it was their duty as members of the nation to look at it from a serious and intelligent point of view. Hitherto, she had not taken any part in the Women Suffrage movement, but she had always felt and advocated that if the vote were given to any women, the married woman had certainly the same right as a widow or spinster. Mrs. Powell moved the resolution, which was seconded by Miss Clark and supported by Mrs. Despard. It was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Scott, of Pennant Hall, presented a bouquet to Mrs. Despard, and Mrs. Busch-Michell one to Mrs. Edward Powell. The lady tea-makers were Mrs. Daniels, Mrs. Grice, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Kelsner, Mrs. Beddoes, Mrs. Butt, Mrs. F. Bennett Lloyd, Mrs. Bellis, Mrs. Aubrey Benbow, Mrs. Harry Barrett, Miss D. Davies. An excellent musical programme was given, and Miss Grace Tipping did excellent service at the piano.

Mid-Wales is certainly aroused to real sympathy with the Suffrage Cause, and this is largely due to the hard work which the Freedom League has done in that district. What it is remembered that the Burghs were represented so long by Sir J. D. Rees, it will be recognised that Suffrage work has been especially difficult there. Miss Clark has voluntarily taken up the position of honorary organiser and so long as the League has so capable a representative, there is no fear of the present interest dying down. A. N.

DEPUTATION TO EARL BEAUCHAMP.

On Monday afternoon a deputation of the Women's Freedom League waited upon Earl Beauchamp, First Commissioner of Works, at His Majesty's Office of Works. The deputation consisted of Mrs. Despard, President, Mrs. How Martyn, head of the Political and Militant Department, Miss C. Tite, hon. treasurer, and Miss Anna Munro. Earl Beauchamp received our representatives in his room overlooking St. James's Park. Mrs. Despard introduced the deputation, and explained its purpose. She said that the League was a militant organisation, but was at the present holding militancy in reserve. In previous militant action it had always endeavoured to have a definite point in view. The League stood for resistance to certain kinds of legislation made without the consent of women, and showed its belief by tax resistance, census resistance and in other ways. Mrs. Despard did not enter into general arguments as to the justice of woman's enfranchisement, but stated that women felt most keenly the domestic character of legislation; it enters the home; it affects women; and yet women have no voice. Women, too, have been thrust out of the home; from girls of fourteen to women of more than sixty, large numbers are compelled to earn their living. After a reference to the attempt to interfere with the work of the pit-brow women, and to the one-sidedness of much legislation, she spoke of her experience on Boards of Guardians and Education Boards, which had made real to her the pitiable case of the working widow with

children and the unmarried mother. She emphasised the serious nature of the crisis, and stated that if the insult was put upon women of exclusion from the Government's Reform Bill, the result would be that most terrible thing, a sex war. She hoped that the Government would see the necessity of finding a means of healing the discord with justice and peace.

Mrs. How Martyn dealt with the historic facts of the long agitation by the National Union, and to the hardship of majorities in the House of Commons in favour of Women's enfranchisement being non-effective in securing the passing of a measure. When the Liberal Government came into power in 1906, it was hoped that one of its first acts would have been to ensure a measure of justice for women. But nothing was done. She spoke of the work of the Conciliation Committee, and said that the various Suffrage Societies supported the Conciliation Bill as the one most likely to pass, yet still standing by their demand for the vote "on the same terms as men." The women had loyally kept their word with Mr. Asquith, refraining from militant action in view of his pledges for the Bill, but his latest pronouncement with regard to a Manhood Suffrage Bill had seriously complicated the situation. There was danger of such a Bill passing, and if, notwithstanding their important position in public life, women were left out, it would be an intolerable insult, and the last women could take quietly. The work of the women justifies them in asking the Government to face the question and give a leading to the House of Commons. Mrs. How Martyn further asked Earl Beauchamp the following questions: (1) Will you use your influence in the Cabinet to get Women's Suffrage included in any Reform Bill? (2) Will you support Women's Suffrage in the Cabinet and in your speeches? (3) Will you in the House of Lords advocate and support the rejection of any Bill which, while extending the suffrage to more men, does not include its extension to women?

In his reply Earl Beauchamp said that in his speeches he had expressed his adherence to the Women's Suffrage movement, being firmly convinced that many existing evils could not be remedied until women had the vote. Those mentioned by Mrs. Despard were very serious; there was also the case of the insufficiently fed girl assistants in shops, which he was anxious to see remedied, and he agreed that the Cause had not been fairly treated in the Press. As to the first question about his influence in the Cabinet, Earl Beauchamp declined to give an answer on the ground that to say how he would use his influence destroys the existing method of Government. In answer to the second question, he declared that by his speeches and his vote he would support Women's Suffrage. With regard to the third, he thought it was a hypothetical case, but affirmed his readiness to vote for any amendment which the House of Commons might pass, and which would then be incorporated in the Bill. Not even the members of the Women's Freedom League, he observed, could regard further Parliamentary action as possible if both Houses rejected a woman's amendment. All that would then remain to be done would be to carry on a still further campaign in the constituencies. It was useless to try to convert Parliament unless behind it there was the backbone of public opinion. His own opinion was that feeling in the country was in favour of Women's Suffrage. He could not pledge himself to support any particular form of Woman Suffrage, but on the principle he was heartily at one with the deputation.

The rest of the time was spent in a friendly conversational way rather than in formal speeches. Mrs. Despard remarked that the form which the women asked was "on the same terms as men," but that they recognised how legislation moved, and were willing to accept a measure which removed sex disability. Earl Beauchamp answered that he would support the amendment, for which there was a general favourable feeling, and thought that it would be wiser to advocate a moderate rather than an extreme measure.

Mrs. How Martyn, speaking on the League's question as to opposition on the Third Reading, drew attention to the fact that no Bill can be got through without the use of the closure and other devices, which are at the command of the Government. The supporters of Women Suffrage might disagree on the form of the amendment, and women might be left as before. But she maintained that the only kind of effective pressure that could be brought upon the Government would be to make it feel that a majority in the House were pledged to vote against the Bill if no women were included. The Insurance Bill is going through by the pressure of closure by compartment. Earl Beauchamp declared that this was a House of Commons question, not a question for the House of Lords, and he found that House of Commons men cared little what the Lords thought on any question. As to the matter being taken up by the Cabinet, Earl Beauchamp said that he could not expect to give an ade-

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quate reply if the statement of the Prime Minister were not regarded as adequate. Divisions in the Cabinet had happened before, as, for instance, when Tariff Reform was introduced in 1903, the Cabinet agreed to differ. He thought that the Woman Suffrage question was in a more favourable position now than it had been in the past; pledges for full opportunities for the discussion of amendments, and, if carried, their incorporation in the Bill, to go forward with Government support, had never previously been given. When Mrs. How Martyn suggested that women were not dangerous enough to compel the Cabinet to take up the question, as was the case in 1832, Earl Beauchamp thought it would be well if the women made their case as clear as was done by those who demanded electoral reform in 1832, and that it was important to convert Members to support Woman Suffrage.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S SPEECH AT BATH.

Now we have a chance when the road is clear for the insertion in the Government Bill of an amendment which will enfranchise not a limited class of women, chosen just to suit the Tory canvasser, but for the insertion of an amendment which would include the working man's wife—(cheers)—and that explains the fury of these anti-Liberal women. What I ask you is, do not play their game. There is nothing they would hate more than to see that carried next year. It does not suit their book. They will look so silly if it is carried, and the whole of their effort to destroy the Liberal party by further packing the register will be a failure. Let us unite on a fair democratic representation of women. I have always voted for every measure which was drafted on broad democratic lines, and I am going to tell you my reasons why I recommend the carrying of such a measure. I have never been able to understand how—unless you deny to a woman the possession of a soul, with all the infinite responsibility that fact implies—you can deny to her the power which you give to man in the government of the country. Laws affect the interests of women just as deeply as they do the interests of men. Some laws, many laws, affect them more gravely. There has been a fundamental change during the last generation or two in the conception of the duties and functions of government in this respect. I am pleading the cause of women. (Cheers.) I do not say there have not been cruel women in history, but on the whole it has been the salvation of the race that, amid the welter of cruelty which through the ages filled the earth with the moaning of the tortured, one sex stood with unpolluted hands at the altar of mercy. Their gentleness has saved mankind from barbarism, their weakness became the strength of civilisation, and now, when the highest functions of government have been conquered by the arts of gentleness which they practise, they have at least the right to an equal share in the victory. (Hear, hear.) I want to put this to you. Government to-day is essentially different in its outlook, in its duties, in its functions, from the government of a century ago. Government to-day has annexed an interest in the very questions which in the old days were allowed to be solved by the individual man and woman in their own way for themselves. What are the questions? Look at the great subjects of legislation of the last few years. Education, training of children. That used to be left entirely to the individual in those days, not to the individual man, but to the man and woman consulting together, acting together, taking counsel together. The housing problem—sanitation of houses, feeding of children, provision for old age and sickness, sobriety and temperance, the treatment cure, nursing, and prevention of disease. Formerly those were questions which men and women helped each other individually to deal with. Now they have been lifted into the sphere of the law. Why should women cease to be interested in them? Why should not men and women give the same mutual aid and succour once those great, momentous questions which affect their whole lives have passed into the region of the ruler.

Domestic Needs.

I will tell you my experience in regard to the Insurance Bill. (A voice: "Stick to it.") Look at the questions. How are you to insure working women, four millions of them—the very difficult problem of the domestic servants—(laughter)—who write such excellent articles in the newspapers, and to say that persons who write such admirable essays are not fit for the vote—(laughter)—the problem of the insurance of married women, the maternity benefit, the treatment of consumptive children, nursing, and the dealing with causes of disease, the question of bad housing, the inadequate nourishment of children—who can answer with half the authority of women for these questions? (Cheers.) And yet they have not been thought fit to have a voice. It is obvious that man cannot trust the interest of any class entirely to another—(Hear, hear)—and you cannot trust the interest of any sex entirely to another. It is not that their interests are not identical, but their point of view is different.

The Custodian of the Cupboard.

Having drawn a picture of woman's self-sacrifice in the home

in order to keep up the husband's contributions to the friendly societies, Mr. Lloyd George proceeded: There is a great Party in the State which has pledged itself anew through its new leader—(laughter)—the moment it gets into power to introduce and carry legislation which will go straight to the cupboard and nibble at every loaf. All we ask for is that the custodian of that cupboard shall have a weapon to defend her children's bread. (Cheers.) Did you read that remarkable debate at the Leeds Unionist Conference? (Laughter.) For the first time the Unionist Conference decided against women's suffrage, and did you notice the reason why? A man got up and said, "If you give votes to women you cannot carry the taxation of bread." (Cheers.) Nor could they, nor should they. (Hear, hear.)

Time to Strike.

The housing problem and insanitary homes, he proceeded, showed how women had suffered. It is time they should be allowed to strike. (Cheers.) Nature armed every beast of prey with the power to protect her young. Why should not women at least have a vote that would cleanse the land of these foul dens? (Cheers.) Slums were often the punishment of the man. They were almost always the martyrdom of the woman. (Cheers.) Give her a voice, give her a vote, give her the right of a share in the making and administering of the laws which affect not merely her own life, but what is dearer to her, the lives of her children. (Cheers.)

I know they say women are not fit to vote. You get a little bit of a man—(laughter)—the whole brains of whose household are in his wife, and who is probably absolutely ruled by her saying, "You know women are not fit for a vote." (Laughter.) He is the ruler of creation. You know it is bad taste to talk like that. He could have done so fifty or a hundred years ago, but now women are gradually getting into every sphere, even of commercial activity, and they are conducting themselves with skill, with caution, with foresight, with capacity. It is too late to talk like that. I have known many a business, wrecked by the folly and futility of the man, picked up, pieced together, and run successfully by a capable and a wise woman.

Women and War.

They say you cannot make good soldiers out of women. You have never tried. (Laughter.) There was a race at one time, I believe, that had an army of women, and its traditional repute in history stands very high. (Laughter.) The women gave up the job; they thought it was better suited to the intellect of men. (Laughter and cheers.) But after all, men, of course, are better for some tasks; women are better for others, equally important. Men make the better soldiers; women make the better nurses. ("Why don't you put them in the Bill?" and disorder.) After all, the healing of wounds is nobler work than inflicting them. What is more, it demands higher qualities of brain and heart.

War, after all, is not a permanent institution. (Cheers.) Heaven forbid that it should be. The duel is vanishing, and I think you will see war receding along the same dark road, and if women, by their presence on the register, saved us from the infamy of a single war they would have justified their vote before God and man. (Cheers.) And when women get the vote, not merely here but on the Continent—for the movement is not confined to this country—I think you will find that the mothers of these great countries will see that the fields of Europe are not drenched with the blood of their sons. (Cheers.) After all, this is no new experiment; our great Colonies, for the most part, have already undertaken it, and I have many a time asked Colonial statesmen of every part, Protectionists and Free Traders, Liberal, Labour, and Conservative, what they thought of it. They had but one answer, that it was a complete success. The admissions of the women to the franchise in New Zealand and Australia is accepted by men of all parties, and accepted as a great triumph. It widened the horizon of the home. That is what one statesman said. It has founded a new comradeship in the home. Men have lost slaves and found comrades. Women have achieved emancipation and equality of great ideals for Liberalism. I appeal to the Liberal party to be true to its high and honoured traditions, and once more next year widen the bounds of liberty—(cheers)—and set the bonds free. (Loud cheers.)

POLITICAL AND MILITANT WORK. HITCHIN BY-ELECTION.

Result.

LORD ROBERT CECIL (Conservative) 5,542.

Mr. T. T. GREG (Liberal), 3,909.

Majority against Government, 1,633.

Organiser-in-Charge—Miss ANNA MUNRO.

The last few days of our campaign in the Hitchin Division demonstrated the excellent educational work of the League in this election. On Monday evening the Stevenage Town Hall was crowded by a very interested and enthusiastic audience. Miss Munro, from the chair, dealt with the League and its objects, Mrs. Clarkson Swann spoke on the moral aspect, and Miss Boyle on the present crisis. Miss Cunningham very ably stewarded.

On Tuesday evening meetings were held in the open-air at Hitchin and Royston. Mrs. Tudor presided at Hitchin over one of the largest and most attentive audiences we have had in the Market-square. Mrs. Clarkson Swann spoke for nearly

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES. THE W.S.P.U.

One of the results of the deputation of Suffrage Societies to the Prime Minister has been a resumption of militant methods on the part of the Women's Social and Political Union on the ground that to leave the question of Woman Suffrage to an amendment, instead of making it a part of the Government's Bill, was a refusal of justice and an insult to women. The demonstration in Parliament-square took place, as previously announced, on Tuesday, November 21. The result was that 220 women were arrested for obstructing the police in the performance of their duty or for breaking windows. Windows were broken in the Government Offices, the National Liberal Club, and other buildings in Whitehall and in the Strand. The cases came before Mr. Marsham, at Bow-street, and all have not yet been dealt with. Sentences have ranged from seven days to one month—Mrs. Pethick Lawrence was sentenced to a month—and some of the cases of stone-throwing have been committed for trial at the London Sessions on December 5.

an hour and was heartily applauded, an unusual occurrence in this part of the country in the open air. At Royston Mrs. Vulliamy billed the entire town with our election address and afterwards spoke at the Market-hill with Mr. Vulliamy and Miss Munro. On Wednesday we were again in the Market-place at Hitchin, where a good audience listened in spite of the intense cold. On election day we were able to have representatives at the most important polling booths: Hitchin, Mrs. Tudor and Mrs. Clarkson Swann; Royston, Mr. and Mrs. Vulliamy; Letchworth, Miss Lee and Miss Cunningham; Stevenage, Miss Munro. Our work was crowned by the defeat of the Government candidate. Our thanks are due to all who helped so willingly and ably throughout the entire campaign.

DEPUTATION TO THE RT. HON. W. RUNCIMAN, M.P.

Miss L. Scott, of Dewsbury, represented the Women's Freedom League on a joint deputation to Mr. Runciman on November 16. The other Suffrage Societies represented were The National Union and the W.S.P.U. Mr. Runciman supported Mr. Asquith's statement to the joint deputation, and said he could not promise to vote for Adult Women's Suffrage, but he is prepared to vote and speak for the Conciliation Bill. He believes this Bill, however, to be less advantageous to women than Mr. Asquith's suggestion, because an amendment to the Manhood Suffrage Bill for the enfranchisement of married women would mean an addition of some millions to the number of women voters under the Conciliation Bill.

LOBBYING.

Mrs. Presbury and Mrs. Bertram Hobson opened the Women's Freedom League lobbying campaign at 2.45 on Wednesday, November 15, since which time at least two of our members have been in St. Stephen's Hall—the Lobby itself being denied to women—during all the hours but two of the sitting of the House up to 11 p.m. So far I have received reports from lobbyists of the replies of sixteen Members of Parliament. One of our Members, sending a donation, writes: "As I was not able to volunteer last night either for lobbying or poster-parading, I feel the least I can do is to send a small subscription towards the expenses of such enterprises." The importance of this political work is very great, and any member of the W.F.L. who has an hour or two to give to League work cannot do better than go to St. Stephen's and interview Members of Parliament. Full directions will be sent from the office on application.

RESOLUTION FOR MEETINGS.

At a meeting held at the Labour Institute, Bermondsey, Mrs. Tanner carried the following resolution:—"This meeting calls upon

Mr. Glanville (the M.P. for the district) to press for the inclusion of women in the Government Reform Bill and to vote against Third Reading if Women's Suffrage is not included." Members in other districts should ask to be allowed to address the meetings of other societies and put a similar resolution.

MRS. DESPARD IN MANCHESTER.

Freedom Leaguers in Manchester were fortunate enough to hear Mrs. Despard in private the day after the historical deputation to Mr. Asquith. Eagerly we gathered words of hope and good cheer from our President, who is so well loved by us all. On Monday, November 20, this privilege was extended to the public in Eccles. The Odd-fellows' Hall was crowded. Mr. Field Till, who presided, declared his good faith in the Government. Miss Neale made an earnest appeal. Everybody hung on Mrs. Despard's words, and now we are all looking forward to increased activities, and greater scope for action in the Manchester District because Mrs. Despard will so soon be among us again for more than a flying visit. Our thanks are due to Miss Marsh, Miss Timperley, and Mr. Allen for their valuable help. On Tuesday, the 21st, the Manchester Central Branch met and declared its satisfaction at the turn in events, especially in the fact that Mrs. Despard is so soon to live and work here. That same night members of the Eccles Branch decided to help the N.U.W.S.S. to produce *Man and Woman* in January in return for a percentage of the profits.

—JANET HEYES.

WINTER SPORTS OUTFITS



Ladies contemplating visiting Switzerland in the winter for the first time are usually confronted by an exceedingly difficult problem. They require a Sports Outfit, but they do not know what to buy. As a rule they purchase the wrong thing, or in despair they leave over the question of the outfit until they get to Switzerland, where they have to pay an exorbitant price. We have made a special study of Winter Sports Outfits, and have now in stock an immense variety of every conceivable garment suitable for tobogganing, "bobbing," ski-ing, skijoring, lugeing, and skating. Ladies are invited to inquire for the manager of the department, who has personally made a most careful study of this subject at St. Moritz and other centres of winter sports, and will willingly give the benefit of his experience to anyone wishing to consult him.

Real Cashmere Sports Coat (as sketch), indispensable for Swiss winter sports, made from the softest and best quality wool. In all colours and white.

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Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE, Mrs. M. H. FISHER.

SATURDAY, December 2, 1911.

LLOYD GEORGE'S PRONOUNCEMENT.

WHAT IS IT WORTH?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has spoken, and those who put off final judgment until they had heard him are asking themselves and him, What does his speech mean? Members of our recent deputation who asked from him a pronouncement were told that while agreeing on the main points with his chief, he would reserve his own personal statement until the Liberal demonstration at Bath.

Naturally we expected from him something more than a mere suffrage speech. Doubtless he has given us this. He has pointed out what we happen to know already, that there can be no democratic electoral reform that does not include women. He has given it forth as his opinion that women are as well able as men to grapple with the social problems of the day; that, in fact, their point of view is necessary to anything like fair consideration of questions the settlement of which may affect deeply the life of the community. "It is obvious," he said, "that men cannot trust the interest of any class entirely to another class; and you cannot trust the interest of any sex entirely to another." Precisely. That is what we Suffragists have been saying for years; and we recognise it as a hopeful sign of the times that a Minister of the Crown, who has given such pledges to the country, who has made such demands and has so much at stake, should think it necessary, when he is making his appeal to the nation, to plead the women's Cause and to use their arguments.

We have a curious sense, if memory does not play us false, of having heard the same sort of thing before. There was a certain occasion, in the Albert Hall, some three years ago, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke in much the same way to the Liberal women. And we do not remember that anything came of it. Rather it has seemed to us that, so far as any practical or prompt solution of the question went, the Chancellor has been our enemy.

He tells us now that, on Party grounds, he could not support the Conciliation Bill. It would have enfranchised "a limited class of women chosen just to suit the Tory canvasser"—a curious misstatement from a man of the Chancellor's intelligence! But now apparently his path is made clear for him. Someone may "insert an amendment which would include the working-man's wife." That is all very well. Every convinced democrat would joyfully welcome an unhoped-for enlargement of our woman's franchise scheme. That anyone who was present at our deputation should conceive otherwise passes our wits to imagine. We would, however, point out to Mr. Lloyd George that we expected much more than this from him.

He has given us much oratory, but no new pledge; many vague promises, but no declaration of policy.

What we of the Women's Freedom League who were present at the deputation had expected was that, conscious as he appears to be of the urgent necessity for this reform, he would have put before us some plan of action. We have heard that a Minister of the Crown will introduce the proposed amendment. Of this there is no word in the Chancellor's speech. Then, again, we hear of a campaign throughout the country. Of what nature, and financed by whom? There is a Gladstone League which sends speakers far and

wide to protest against the tyranny and corruption practised by employers and landowners to control the votes of those who are dependent upon them. Does the Chancellor propose, when his Insurance Bill has passed, to throw his energies into such a scheme?

Of this no premonition is given in his speech. In truth, reading, line by line, the reports given in the papers, what we seem to feel is a torrent of words, with little of solid substance behind them. We cannot, therefore, pretend to be satisfied. We are not children. Toys and baubles will not charm us into complacent silence. None of us feels elated by hearing, even from so high an authority, that women are as capable as men of discerning what is good for the country in which they hold so large a stake. We have had enough of words. We are tired of them. What we demand is action. Let Mr. Lloyd George, as representing the Government that holds itself responsible for the guidance of the nation, in this critical moment of its history, tell us, without any further delay, what steps will be taken to make it possible for us to fulfil our duty to the State.

If the head of the Government refuses to include Women's Franchise in the draft of his Bill for electoral reform, we are anxious to know what part will be taken by other members of the Cabinet. This we had expected to hear from the Chancellor's speech at Bath. As it stands, though there is the usual note of encouragement running through its words, to us it is worth little.

What, then, are we to do? There are some even amongst our own fellow-members who blame us for not having entered upon militancy at once, who say that immediately after the deputation we should have shown our displeasure by some overt act of revolt. That, no doubt, was the first impulse of many of us; but, for better or for worse, having reasoned out the situation calmly, we came to an opposite decision.

A schoolmaster, in the early settlement days in Kentucky, telling his scholars of a certain battle which ended disastrously for the settlers, gave them the following significant lesson. "Never go into a battle merely to show that you are not a coward." He went on to explain. "Do not misunderstand me. Whether you be men or women, you will never do anything in the world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind—next to honour. It is your king. But the king must always have a good cause."

To which I would add: "Not only must his cause be good; he must also be convinced that the courageous action into which he is throwing himself will serve the cause better than any other."

Let us never forget that one of the most difficult forms of moral courage—again and again practised by generals in the field—has been to restrain the ardour of their troops until the moment for effective action arrives.

As regards our future action and the principle on which we act. We are militant; and when the moment for effective, logical, well-considered militancy arrives, we shall find means of showing that we do not intend tamely to submit to the perpetual tutelage which a Manhood Suffrage Bill would entail. Not a militant action which spreads itself over one day and is swiftly forgotten by the curious, sensation-loving crowd, shall we initiate, if the worst come to pass. A militancy rather the object of which will be to hamper Government action continually—through resistance of taxation and revolt against other legislation—and to show, in certain striking ways, the importance of women's place in the nation.

In the meantime, let us maintain our watchful attitude. Let us continue to gain support either for the Conciliation Bill or for an amendment to the proposed electoral reform measure. Let us endeavour to gain pledges from Members of Parliament not to vote for the Government Bill unless it includes an enfranchisement measure for women.

C. DESPARD.

CABINET MINISTERS' REPLIES.

Unfortunately we are not able to give a first-hand impression of Mr. Lloyd George's meeting at Bath. Our request for tickets in order to send two representatives met with an emphatic refusal. Mrs. Sproson tried to gain admission in order to report for THE VOTE, but was definitely told that no woman was to be allowed at the Press table. From the reports in the general Press Mr. Lloyd George does not seem to have added anything to what he had already said except to embellish it with emotional rhetoric which, if it had much real meaning or feeling behind it, would have prompted him to more strenuous efforts than he appears to intend to make. We hope before long that he will make it clear that he will oppose the Electoral Reform Bill on its Third Reading if Women's Suffrage is not included. With that pledge we should feel safe from the insult of a Manhood Suffrage Bill.

Mrs. Sproson writes:

I carefully inquired of those who had the best possible advantage of hearing every word, and my impression is that the net result is a mixed blessing. When Mr. George mentioned Women's Suffrage there was half-hearted applause, but when he said he stood for votes for the working-man's wife to protect the cupboard, the applause was stentorian; the reason, in my judgment, being that in the back of the minds of the thousands of men assembled this course meant a dual vote for themselves. Also when he attacked (quite untruly) the militant Suffragists for supporting the Conciliation Bill and other limited measures which would not be fair to Liberalism, the point emphasised both by the attitude of Mr. Lloyd George and his audience was "How will it affect us?" The question of justice to women was a secondary consideration. As a result of Mr. Lloyd George's declaration of his willingness to preach his particular view of the matter, and after considering the statements of the Prime Minister as well as the varying temper of the House of Commons and the attitude of the man in the street, my opinion is that the best policy for the moment is to concentrate on winning support for some measure of women's enfranchisement next year and the defeat of the Reform Bill if women are not included.

Other Members of the Cabinet.

A letter has been sent to every member of the Cabinet with a request that he should receive a deputation. Earl Beauchamp readily agreed to receive us and an account of the interview will be found in another part of the paper.

The following members of the Cabinet, for various reasons, chiefly that their views are already known, have refused to receive our deputations:—Mr. R. McKenna, Home Office; Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Office; Mr. L. Harcourt, Colonial Office; Viscount Haldane, War Office; Mr. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty; Lord Pentland, Secretary for Scotland; Mr. W. Runciman, President Board of Agriculture; Mr. J. A. Pease, President Board of Education; Mr. A. Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland; Mr. H. Samuel, Postmaster-General; Viscount Morley, Lord President of the Council; Earl Carrington, Lord Privy Seal.

Sir Edward Grey, in a letter to Lord Lytton "on the effect upon the prospects of Women's Suffrage of recent developments," writes:—

Personally I am prepared to support a measure that would enfranchise all the women who would have obtained a vote under the Conciliation Bill, and also married women. It has been announced that the Government Suffrage Bill will be drawn so as to be open to an amendment of this nature. If such a proposal can secure union amongst the supporters of Women's Suffrage it can be carried more quickly and certainly as an amendment to the Government Bill than as a separate measure.

The objection that a private Member's amendment to a Government Bill has no chance does not apply in this case. As the Prime Minister has declared the question of Women's Suffrage to be an open question, so far as the Members of the Ministry are concerned, there will be no difficulty whatever in having a separate amendment moved by a Member of the Government from the Front Ministerial Bench, if this be thought desirable by the supporters of the movement.

The essential thing is that there should be union amongst the supporters of Women's Suffrage in the House of Commons on the proposals to be made there. Without union no opportunities are of any use. With union there will now be a greater opportunity than has ever yet been the case for a

real and substantial extension of the Parliamentary Suffrage to women.

We shall take other means to ascertain the views of Cabinet Ministers and, what is even more important, to place our views before them.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

THE INSURANCE BILL. DOMESTIC SERVANTS AND OTHERS.

The Insurance Bill is dead—if women and doctors refuse consent to it. Let us clear away the fog and examine the situation. There are two points involved:—(1) A principle; (2) the method of carrying out the principle.

1. If we have decided that National Insurance is good for the nation's workers, then all workers must be included, whether they are domestic servants, barmaids, nurses, waitresses, hotel servants, governesses, women in drapers' shops and other business houses, &c.

But—

2. The methods proposed in the so-called National Insurance Bill will not do—no amendments, no alterations can make this Bill acceptable. It is not "National"; it is not "Insurance." Adopting a now well-known Parliamentary phrase, "B. M. G." (Bill must go!)

The Bill is condemned because it is unfair to workers as workers, because it is unfair to women, both as women and as workers; it makes unfair sex distinctions between workers, it makes unfair distinctions between rich and poor, strong and sick workers; even between those workers able to exercise wise choice of a society and those who can only join such society as is open to them.

In July last it was pointed out in THE VOTE that, while some twenty Members claimed to represent farm servants, &c., when the Bill was introduced, not one rose to represent any woman, although 2,000,000 women domestic servants and probably 1,000,000 other women workers were especially affected.

The suggestions put forward by maids and mistresses alike only serve to show the helplessness of women while deprived of political power. All protesters should join a Suffrage Society insisting on Votes for Women; there is no other solution of these difficulties.

As the Bill was drawn at first women domestic servants were to be taxed 3d. weekly during their working years, to be compelled to pay for their Workmen's Compensation if they met with an accident, to forfeit the whole of their payments if they married and left service, not to be allowed to receive sickness benefit while provided with board and lodging by their employer, but only to have free doctoring and drugs, which are, as a rule, given free by employers at present.

Under pressure from Members with agricultural constituencies the "living-in" clause was struck out. Under extreme pressure and agitation by women the forfeiture on marriage has been modified, though still unsatisfactory; but the position remains practically unchanged.

A new clause was inserted (No. 44) granting a reduction in cases where employers undertake to pay wages to servants for six weeks in case of sickness; but the law already compels them to pay one month's wages, so that this only amounts to two weeks' wages for the servant in return for her (compulsory) contributions.

This clause is so drawn that richer women servants may avail themselves of the "reduced rate" and pay 2d. weekly, mistresses 2½d. (men 3d., employer 2d.), but poorer servants, whose total remuneration is below 10s. per week, may not; they must always pay the full rate. In my opinion, in which the assistant-secretary of the Domestic Workers' Union (to whom my best thanks) joins, those servants who are strong, young, capable—in a word, sought after—will be able to make the mistresses pay the tax; but the poorer and less attractive will have to pay it themselves, even possibly to submit to a reduction in wages.

The benefits given are not those which the servant



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AN opportunity to buy our stylish and well-made Fur garments (whose reliable qualities are well-known) at considerably under ruling prices, is one that ladies interested in these goods will not willingly miss. Such an opportunity occurs next week, when we offer a limited number of elegant Fur Coats, handsome Fur-lined Coats and Fur Sets, at prices that will mean a substantial saving of money to every purchaser, and that will also effect our object of making a rapid and complete clearance of every garment. The following examples are worth reading and noting:—

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8 only Canadian Sable Stoles, beautiful quality skins, and double fur throughout. Usual price 49 guineas. Sale price **29 gns.**

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54 Baum and Blended Stone Marten Stoles, all made from very good quality skins, and of various lengths. Usual prices 10 to 14 guineas. Now all one price **6 gns.**

A limited quantity of Fur Lined Motor Coats, in Box Cloth, Navy, Purple, Brown, and Mole, at HALF-PRICE. These coats are lined with Natural Musquash, also Seal and Dyed Musquash; in most cases the sleeves are also lined Fur. The collars are very large and comfortable, and are of Natural Beaver and Skunk Raccoon. Usual prices 18 and 19 guineas. Sale price **£9 19s. 6d.**

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most requires. A far better proposal for her would have been some form of unemployed pay, giving sufficient for maintenance for, perhaps, a shorter period in early life and longer in later life. In case of illness the servant now has hospitals, infirmaries, convalescent homes, &c., and she will probably avail herself of them much as at present, the insurance deduction being simply felt as a tax on her earnings. Instead of this scheme I much prefer the abolition of sweated labour and the adoption of a minimum wage, with special reference to the present cost of living, and Fair Rent Courts.

The whole manner in which this Bill has been drawn and hustled through Parliament shows the failure and breakdown of the Parliamentary machine, and I hope heralds the near ending of Party system. This system may at one period of our history have served a useful purpose, but now it is pernicious, because it is blinding men to the real state of things. There has been no opposition—no effective, critical, constructive opposition to this Bill. Women are known as the cleaners—the clearers-up of the world. Perhaps one of the first tasks for the Woman's Vote—for the new, active, political spirit stirring and rising amongst us—will be the cleansing and restoring of our politico-legislative high national ideal of purity, honour and self-devotion to national ends.

LEAH ANSON.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

EVOLUTION AND THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DEAR MADAM,—I am entirely opposed to the proposal that men should be admitted as members to the W.F.L. Mrs. Thomson-Price, in suggesting that our society should be "the pioneer," has over-looked the fact that the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies has always, I believe, admitted men as members, and frequently had them on the executive committee. Besides that, to call such a change in our constitution "evolution" is a misuse of the term, as evolution advances by differentiation, by specialisation, and the existence of many different societies, each adapted to the special work it proposes to do, is a far more scientific proof of the growth of the movement than any superficial uniformity could be.

I will give my practical objections to the proposal. The greatest danger is that, as we know by experience, men have got into a habit, possibly unconsciously, of interesting themselves in women's organisations more for the political advantage they can derive from them than for the help they can give them. When I was on a committee of the National Union W.S.S., it seemed to me that the strong party bias of some of the distinguished men members was a danger to the society; in a militant society adopting opposition to the Government as one of its recognised methods, this danger would be far greater. Our smaller Branches might easily be swamped by men from semi-political societies who could modify our decisions in conference. At present we gratefully welcome the help of disinterested men as associates while guarding ourselves from such a possibility.

Secondly, I think that voters and the voteless should work in different ways; equal work may be undertaken when we are politically equal. A very obvious difference between the outlook of men and women is shown now by the willingness of some Suffragist M.P.'s to accept an extension of the franchise to men as a substitute for a measure of women's franchise. I believe that colour-blindness is twenty times commoner among men than among women, and in the same way men do not always distinguish the difference between Adult Suffrage and Manhood Suffrage, though to women it is easily perceptible.

The existence of the Men's League is the best proof that there is no sex-war, and it unites men who might differ on the methods employed by the women's societies. I cannot believe that large numbers of genuine sympathisers are prevented from pouring into the W.F.L. because they are not given a vote in our internal organisation. I would like to ask why, if men are to be on exactly the same terms as women in the W.F.L., any difference of internal organisation should be considered necessary. According to the advocates of the scheme, it would merely result in increased membership; why would it be necessary to double the N.E.C. in order to cope with this?—Yours faithfully, KATHERINE VULLIAMY.

P.S.—A petition to the Conference, signed by several thousand of our men associates, would be the only convincing argument for giving "votes for men," and would certainly meet with the most careful consideration.

Dear Madam,—The article contributed by Mrs. Thomson

Price to the November 4 issue of THE VOTE advocating a further consolidation of forces by admission of men into the field of work would prove a drastic protest against that tattered flag of sex antagonism, which is ever being flaunted by our opponents, and at the same time furnish the basis of the combined force of the "strength in unity." The broad-minded man has realised that the fatal despotism of authority alone denies to woman her rightful equality. The just man has recognised that the law-makers have created the law-breakers. The courageous man has advanced still further, and boldly joined in the fight. Undoubtedly, the moment has arrived for the women to take not merely one more step but a leap in progression towards that which must henceforth be acknowledged, not only as the great, but the common Cause.

Waldorf Hotel.

ANNIE BRADSHAW.

DEAR MADAM,—The suggestion which was made in the article under above heading, as to the advisability of opening the Women's Freedom League to our men friends and helpers appears both logical and reasonable. Since we are agitating for the removal of sex disabilities and inequalities, why should we maintain a rigid sex exclusiveness in the formation of our own Society? Surely it would be both a wise and a consistent step to open the door irrespective of sex to all who wish to join hands with us in our struggle for freedom.

—Yours truly, A. ABNEY.
16, Clarence Gate-gardens, Regent's-park, N.W.

Mrs. THOMSON-PRICE writes:—"I did not intend to intervene in the correspondence which has followed my article 'Evolution and the Women's Freedom League,' but as one of your correspondents (T. A. Rose) seems to think that the names of Herbert Jacobs, J. Malcolm Mitchell and R. F. Cholmeley were purposely omitted because they had not identified themselves with the Militants, I can assure her that she is labouring under a misapprehension. It would have delighted me to have paid a tribute to every man who has done fine service for our Cause. I might, for instance, have mentioned such splendid champions as Captain Gonne, Cecil Chapman, J.P., the Hon. Sir John Cockburn, W. D. Earengy, LL.D., and a host of others—but I did not attempt to give a complete list of present-day men champions of Woman Suffrage, and could not have done so in the limits of an article, for their names are legion!"

BRANCH NOTES.

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

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Anerley and Crystal Palace District.—Hon. Secretary: Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.

A Branch meeting was held at The Hermitage on Monday, November 20, when to Miss Tite's appeal for funds ready response was given. All present promised to take collecting-boxes, which are to be opened every month at the Branch meeting. Last Wednesday Miss Ethel Fennings opened a discussion on "Woman's Suffrage," at the Men's Adult School, Woodside, and evoked a great deal of interest, which we hope will bear fruit. The opposition was very weak and hardly worth taking seriously. Miss Muriel Fennings sold THE VOTE and other literature.

Croydon.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue. Office: 32A, The Arcade, High-street.

On November 24, at our weekly "At Home," Mrs. Harvey gave an interesting reading from Olive Schreiner's "Woman and Labour." At a Branch meeting which followed Miss Underwood brought forward suggestions from the N.E.C. On Friday, December 1, we shall discuss the Insurance Bill; on December 8 Mrs. Nevinson will speak on the present political situation.

Hackney.—Hon. Secretary: Miss P. LE CROISSETTE, 238, Navarino-mansions, Dalston, N.E.

A cake and candy sale will be held at the shop, 4, Clarence-road, on Saturday, December 16, from 3 till 10 p.m. Goods may be sent to the shop on Friday evening from six o'clock.

Hampstead Garden Suburb.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. BETHAM, 7, Woodside.

It has been decided to hold a public meeting in the Suburb, on December 11, in order to make clear the policy of the League towards the Government in reference to the proposed Manhood Suffrage Bill. Every house in the Suburb will be notified of this meeting.

Stamford Hill.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, 114, Holmleigh-road.

Our "At Home" was a great success from the point of view of speakers, numbers, and collection. Friends are

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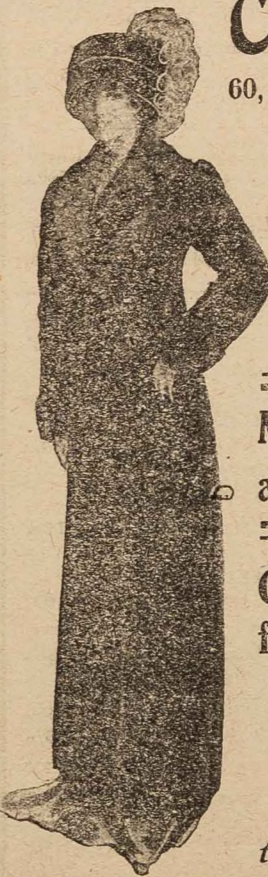
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LOT 4—24 only, Fancy Turkey Rugs in light grounds, suitable for drawing rooms.

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Colman's D. S. F. mustard

kind enough to say that it was the best the Branch has yet given. We all feel much indebted to Mrs. Cope, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett and Mrs. Piercy, A.G.S.M., for their kind assistance.

At a members' meeting on Saturday last Miss Underwood spoke on the subject of the Conference, and a special levy of 6d. a week for the next six months was agreed to by several members. On Thursday, December 7, the Speakers' Class will meet as usual at Mrs. Thomson's. On December 8 Mrs. Goodwin will kindly contribute a paper at the meeting at her house at 4 p.m.

PROVINCIAL BRANCHES.

Brighton and Hove.—Hon. Secretaries: Mrs. FRANCIS, 55, Buckingham-place, Brighton; Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Hove.

Through the kind invitation of Miss Giraud, who lent her charming studio for the occasion, a delightful evening was spent on Saturday, when Mme. Brunel gave a much-appreciated lecture-recital on Shelley, and emphasised, by several quotations, the fact that he was the Woman's Poet. Our next meeting will be on December 9, at 6 p.m., at Miss Close's, 48, Rutland-gardens, Hove.

Portsmouth and Gosport.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. WHETTON, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.

Our thanks to Mrs. Holdaway for her very interesting address on the Insurance Bill to members and friends, at the Tax Office, Albert Hall, on Tuesday evening, November 21. Arrangements have been made for Miss Neilans to visit Portsmouth on December 6 and 7. On Wednesday, she will meet the members at the Tax Office, Albert Hall, at 7.30 p.m. On Thursday afternoon, by kind invitation of Mrs. Johnson, a drawing-room meeting will be held at Graywin, 27, Waverley-road. Speaker, Miss Neilans; chair, Mrs. V. Blake. A public meeting will be held in the evening, on December 7, at the Kingsley Hall, Fawcett-road, at which Miss Neilans will be the principal speaker.

Chester.—Hon. Secretary: Miss WOODALL, 13, Abbey-square. On Thursday last one of our members kindly lent a room at the Cestria Café, when Mr. Cecil Owen, B.Sc., gave an interesting address. He takes a hopeful view of the prospects for our enfranchisement in 1912. A resolution was passed protesting against any extension of the franchise which excludes women. A discussion on the advisability of admitting men to full membership of the League resulted in a resolution being carried in favour. Valuable help is being given by a new and enthusiastic member, Mrs. Chudleigh, who, in co-operation with Miss F. Taylor, will hold a Cake and Candy Sale at 13, Abbey-square, on Saturday, December 9, at 11 a.m., with the object of raising funds.

West Hartlepool.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. ENGLISH, 23, Carlton-street. A successful Jumble Sale was held on Saturday, November 25,

in the I.L.P. rooms. The thanks of the committee are due to all who so loyally supported the sale and assisted at the stalls. The proceeds are in aid of the National Fund.

Swansea.—Hon. Organising Secretary: Mrs. KNIGHT, 23, Walter-road. Hon. Corresponding Secretary: Miss PHIPPS, 5, Grosvenor-road, Sketty.

Our Jumble Sale was successful in making a clear profit of nine guineas. It is impossible to thank everybody in these columns, but we must specially mention Miss Bullin, Miss Kirkland, Mr. Olsson, and our youngest helper, Master W. Ross, who sells THE VOTE. Our next function is the Dramatic Entertainment, on December 18, at the College.

SCOTLAND.—Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop: 33, Forrest-road. Hon. Secretary: Miss A. B. JACK, 21, Buccleuch-place; Hon. Treasurer: Miss M. A. WOOD, 67, Great King-street; Hon. Shop Secretary: Mrs. THOMSON, 39, Rosslyn-crescent.

Mrs. Despard's meeting, held in the Oddfellows' Hall, was most enthusiastic and successful. Mr. Blyth Webster was an ideal chairman, and the audience was held as in a spell alike by Mrs. Despard's wonderful Shelley lecture and by her treatment of the political situation. THE VOTE and pamphlets sold well, and a good collection was taken. On Wednesday last we had a good discussion on "The Economic Position of the Married Woman," led by Miss Jacob, B.Sc., and Miss H. McLachlan, M.A. We have to thank very many members and friends for donations to and help at the Sale, and our drawings amounted to £22 13s. The second-hand bookstall proved very popular, also the competitions and the bran-pie. Heartly thanks are given to Councillor Inman, who opened the sale. Our next task is to fill the Oddfellows' Hall for the Annual Social Meeting, on the evening of December 6, on which occasion our former member, Mrs. Vulliamy, now of the N.E.C., will speak. Tickets (1s.) may be obtained from Miss Stirton, Ferneyhill House, Gilmerton.

Dundee.—Hon. Secretary: Miss L. CLUNAS, 1, Blackness-crescent.

At the Branch meeting strong indignation was expressed at the attempt to wreck the Conciliation Bill by the introduction of a Manhood Suffrage Bill. A vote of censure was passed, condemning the Prime Minister's action and protesting against any further extension of the franchise to men until the women's claim was recognised. Copies of the resolution have been forwarded to Mr. Asquith and Mr. Churchill. Miss Wilkie, M.A., gave a graphic account of "A Vacation School in Paris," which she attended in July.

The fortnightly meeting was held last Thursday, in Gilfillan Hall. Mr. Norval Scrymgeour spoke on "The Occult Side of

Charms." His speech aroused much interest and hearty appreciation.

Glasgow.—Suffrage Centre: 302, Sauchiehall-street.

The Glasgow Branch were much favoured by having our President with us for two meetings in November. When we knew of the bombshell that had been thrown among us we were kept hopeful, knowing we should have the chance of hearing her opinion. At the Friday meeting, in the Philosophical Hall, Bath-street, instead of speaking on the "Unmarried Mother" as she had intended, she spoke in support of two resolutions to Mr. Asquith, proposed in a splendid speech by Miss Eunice Murray. Our President was in her usual good form, and her desire that the resolutions should be passed by acclamation was responded to most heartily—no voice or hand dissenting. Mrs. James A. Allan, in proposing the usual votes of thanks, emphasised the point that this "Manhood Suffrage," talked of just now, could not be called democratic.

The "At Home" in our rooms, Mrs. John Turner being the hostess, was also a most successful meeting. Mrs. Despard's warning that we must not let ourselves lose heart, as has been done in the past, was fully appreciated, and our Branch is stronger in members, money, and enthusiasm as a result of the visit of our President.

The Jumble Sale in Partick brought in over £20. Our thanks are due to friends for gifts of flowers, jam, biscuits and books to the Centre.

On December 4 an exhibition of Women Artists' Work will be opened in the Centre, and remain open for three weeks. It will include embroidery, paintings, metal and leather work. The Branch meets on Thursday, December 7, at 7.0 o'clock, to receive a representative from the N.E.C. on important business. At 8.0 o'clock Mrs. James Hunter will speak on the work of the National Vigilance Society.

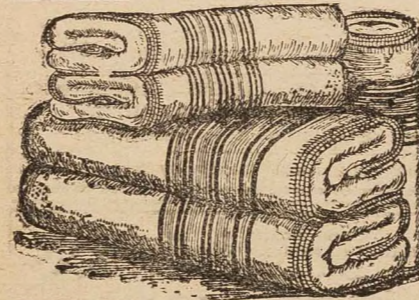
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Miss Baird ..	0	12	0	Telephone box .. 0 2 7
Miss J. L. Bunten ..	3	0	0	Sales in Shop and Tea Room .. 5 0 2
Mr. and Mrs. Fyfe ..	0	10	0	Membership fees .. 1 1 0
Mrs. Murray, books sold ..	0	7	0	Amount previously acknowledged .. 240 3 6½
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Thurs., November 30.—CAXTON HALL "AT HOME," 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Nevinson. *Chairman:* Mrs. Cope. FINCHLEY BRANCH MEMBERS' MEETING, Miss Tite. Highbury Corner: OPEN-AIR MEETING, 7.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss C. Nina Boyle. HACKNEY BRANCH MEETING, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard.

Fri., Dec. 1.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE at 1, Robert-street, 2.30 p.m. MEMBERS' MEETING, Caxton Hall, 8 p.m. *Chairman:* Mrs. Despard. CROYDON BRANCH "AT HOME," 3.30 p.m., at the

Office, The Arcade, High-street.

Sat., Dec. 2.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 10 a.m.

Mon., Dec. 4.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL at 1, Robert-street, 7 p.m. *Chairman:* Miss Underwood.

Wed., Dec. 6.—DISCUSSION MEETING in the Lower Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, 8 p.m., on "The Woman's Platform in *The Standard*." Mrs. How Martyn. *Chairman:* Miss Nina Boyle. POLITICAL AND MILITANT GROUP, 6.30 p.m., at 1, Robert-street.

Thurs., Dec. 7.—KENSINGTON BRANCH "AT HOME," in the Lecture Hall, 46, Queen's-road, Bayswater, 8.30 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle and Mr. G. E. O'Dell. *Chairman:* Miss C. V. Tite.

Fri., Dec. 8.—CROYDON BRANCH "AT HOME," 3.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Nevinson.

Sat., Dec. 9.—QUEEN'S GATE HALL, Harrington-road (close to South Kensington Station). Debate on "Woman's Suffrage." Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Gladys Pott. *Chairman:* Mr. E. T. Sanders.

Mon., Dec. 11.—BRANCH MEETING at 149, Croydon-road, Anerley, 8 p.m. Public Meeting, Institute, Central-square, 8 p.m., Hampstead Garden Suburb. *Chairman:* Mrs. Nevinson. *Speakers:* Mrs. How Martyn and Dr. Drysdale.

Tues., Dec. 12.—BECHSTEIN HALL, 5 p.m. Women's Committee in Support of the Anglo-American Arbitration Treaty. W.F.L. Delegate, Miss C. V. Tite.

Thurs., Dec. 14.—NORTHERN HEIGHTS BRANCH MEETING at Miss Wolseley's, 60, Nelson-road, Stroud-green, N., 7.30 p.m. CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING at Mrs. Sutcliffe's, 113, West-side, Clapham-common, 8 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 16.—Cake and Candy Sale, 4, Clarence-road, Hackney, 3 p.m. CAXTON HALL, Café Chantant, 7 till 10 p.m. Tickets, 1s. 6d. (no extras), to be obtained of Mrs. Fisher, 1, Robert-street.

PROVINCES.

PORTSMOUTH.

Wed., Dec. 6.—At 7.30 p.m., MEMBERS' MEETING, Tax Office, Albert Hall. *Speaker:* Miss Neilans.

Thurs., Dec. 7.—DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 3.30 p.m., "Graywin," 27, Waverley-road. *Speaker:* Miss Neilans. *Chairman:* Mrs. V. Blake. Hostess, Mrs. Johnson. PUBLIC MEETING, Kingsley Hall, Fawcett-road. *Speaker:* Miss Neilans.

Sat., Dec. 9.—CAKE AND CANDY SALE at 13, Abbey-square, Chester, 11 a.m.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH.

Tues., Dec. 5.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, "AT HOME," 4 p.m. (for members only). Mrs. Vulliamy.

Wed., Dec. 6.—Oddfellow's Hall, Forrest-road, ANNUAL SOCIAL MEETING, 7 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Vulliamy. Musical Programme, Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser, Miss Margaret Kennedy, A.R.A.M., Miss Patuffa Kennedy-Fraser. Tickets, 1s. each.

Wed., Dec. 13.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, 8 p.m. Lantern Lecture: "Woman, the Civiliser," Miss G. H. Jacob, B.Sc.

DUNDEE.

Thurs., Dec. 7.—Gillfillan Hall, 8 p.m. Miss A. B. Jacob, of Ediburgh.

GLASGOW.

Fri., Dec. 1.—ALEXANDRA PRIMITIVE METHODIST LITERARY SOCIETY. *Speaker:* Miss Shannan.

Mon., Dec. 4.—302, Sauchiehall-street. Exhibition of Women Artists' Work opened.

Thurs., Dec. 7.—BRANCH MEETING, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. James Hunter. Subject: "Work of the National Vigilance Society." CARKEHILL LITERARY SOCIETY. *Speaker:* Miss B. Semple.

Sat., Dec., 16.—"AT HOME" at 7.30. *Speaker:* the Rev. Mr. Emmitt.

NEWTYLE.

Fri., Dec. 1.—LITERARY SOCIETY, Mrs. Allan.

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