

# Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

## MONTHLY PAPER.

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### THE SITUATION.

NEVER before has the cause of women's enfranchisement been so hopeful as to-day. The justice of the claim has been demonstrated almost beyond the need of further reasoning, and, what is equally important, the people of the country, never over-hasty in departing from established custom, have now become used to the idea. At the large meetings held last month through the kingdom there has been hardly any disorder, and in nearly all of them resolutions calling on the Government to grant facilities for the Conciliation Bill were enthusiastically carried. The Town Councils of Glasgow, Dublin, Dundee (all unanimously), and Manchester (by 43 to 10) have sent up similar resolutions to the Prime Minister. The Anti-Suffragist meeting held by Lord Cromer in Manchester for men only was very poorly attended, the speeches were hopelessly contradictory, and *The Times* in its comment next day admitted that if it could be proved that a great majority of women demanded the vote, it would be difficult to refuse the demand. That is, for the leading Anti-Suffragist organ, a great advance upon the position of opponents like Lord Cromer and Mr. F. E. Smith, who maintain that though every woman in the country demanded the vote, they would never grant it—never!

Some important statements upon the subject have been made by Ministers. Mr. Haldane spoke upon the subject at Tranent, East Linton, and Haddington. He attempted, of course, to defend the Government for its efforts to stifle the Bill, but he pointed to his own speech on the second reading as evidence of his own sympathies. At East Linton he said:—

There were people who said it was quite right to admit women to a certain share in public affairs; it was quite right to give them education; it was quite right to open the professions; but these people thought women must not let their entrance into public affairs take them further than the school boards, or perhaps the parish council—or maybe nowadays the county councils—and they must draw the line. But his answer was—that kind of argument came much too late. Both the great political parties had invited ladies to take their full share in every department of Imperial politics, whether it concerned the Army, the Navy, social problems, or the great questions of far-reaching importance concerning our relations with other countries in foreign affairs; the intervention of women and their expression of opinion were called for, and they were invited to organize. It was too late to argue that they could draw the line anywhere. Everywhere there was the evidence of the intervention of women in public life becoming more and more a reality, and the final consequence could not be long delayed. People said: "Where will you draw the line?" He would not draw the line by any Act of Parliament; he left it to Nature to draw it. Nature would draw it very well.

Speaking at Dewsbury on the 25th, Mr. Runciman repeated his reasons for supporting the Conciliation Bill, but gave no hope of facilities this session. He made various suggestions in regard to the possibilities next year, but they were so surrounded with conditions and reservations that we can only take them, as he himself recommended, "for what they are worth." He said:—

For my part I should consider the request a perfectly fair one, and should support it to the best of my ability, but you will believe that I am quite sincere when I add that next year is so full of political possibilities that I cannot tell you now definitely what even my own attitude will be.

Mr. Birrell, to his great credit, has been far more definite. Yielding to a certain amount of pressure, he received a Suffragist deputation in Dublin Castle on the 28th, and in answer said he did not think there need be any difference of opinion between himself and the deputation. He rejoiced that the Conciliation Bill was put forward as placing on the register over a million women whose claim was as strong as any claim put forward by the corresponding persons of the male sex already on the franchise. A man, he said, who wanted to get a rather cheap or dirty kind of popularity among the vulgarest type of the inhabitants of his constituency could do nothing more popular than to get up on the platform and say, "Never, never, under any circumstances will I give a vote to women." His own strong opinion was that whenever Parliament meets next year this question will have to be definitely decided. The Bill would have to be introduced; it would take a long time, because it had to be introduced in a form which would admit of amendment, and a large party would oppose it altogether. Therefore it would take time. But it was entitled to time.

And therefore, said Mr. Birrell, I certainly think (and in this I am only expressing an opinion that I have expressed in private before), with apologies to members of my own party, I certainly think the time for shuffling and delay in this matter has gone by, and that time will have to be given.

Proceeding, he said it would be a big job and a long job, and it was an important matter that ought to have been treated a long time ago. He would do the best he could in the coming year to see that it obtained a full measure of Parliamentary time, which it could only obtain if facilitated by the Government of the day.

In the course of subsequent remarks Mr. Birrell said: "I think you are perfectly right in feeling irritated and annoyed at the delay that has taken place, but you know before the time comes (and I think you are entitled to insist on it at the earliest possible moment) that the decks are cleared for action."

When addressed by Suffragettes in East Fife on the 28th, Mr. Asquith pleaded there would be no time for the Bill this session, but he is reported also to have smiled.

In spite of this great advance on the part of his Leader, Mr. Pease remains obdurate. In answer to a deputation of Suffragists, including Lady Constance Lytton and Miss Adela Pankhurst, he said at Sheffield on the 26th that the Government could not be expected to support the Conciliation Bill, which was a private member's Bill, and that women must take advantage of the Prime Minister's offer with regard to an electoral Reform Bill. He further said he would not himself support a Woman Suffrage Amendment to such a Bill. He might have spared himself the trouble of the statement. He will never be asked to support such an amendment. Mr. Asquith's so-called "pledge" has been forgotten long ago. He himself consigned it to "a remote and speculative future." Every one but Mr. Pease has now consigned it to the infinite azure of the past.



In answer to a further question whether, in case Members of Parliament were paid, he would feel comfortable in taking women's money without giving them representation, Mr. Pease replied that he saw no objection to that position. This might appear strange to ordinary men, did they not remember that Mr. Pease, like all ministers paid by the taxes, is well accustomed to that position already.

On the same side with Mr. Pease in opposition to the Conciliation Bill—the most practical hope the cause has ever had—we must, unfortunately, place Mr. Lloyd George. Speaking at the City Temple on the 17th, he said that he still did not approve of the Bill, but would always support and vote for a Bill which would enfranchise the women who were suffering most. But how he is going to define the women who suffer most we cannot tell. What we do know is that the Conciliation Bill bestows the franchise on just the women who have most practical need of it—the householders, the working women who have no one but themselves to depend upon.

In connexion with the City Temple meeting, Mr. Victor Duval and Mr. George Jacobs, members of the Men's Political Union, were condemned to seven days' imprisonment on what we can only consider ludicrously insufficient evidence, the former for "using insulting and threatening language," and Mr. Jacobs for "disorderly conduct and assaulting a police-sergeant."

Mr. Laurence Housman, a member of our executive, has added to his great services in the cause by his version of the woman's-rights play of 'Lysistrata,' given at the Little Theatre by Miss Gertrude Kingston on the 11th and for the following weeks. On the 29th also, for the benefit of our League, he gave in the Bechstein Hall an admirable reading of his play, 'Pains and Penalties,' wantonly condemned by the Censor for no reason shown, but presumably because it deals with the notorious scandal of Queen Caroline's trial ninety years ago, and the Censor feared some slur might be cast upon the kingly reputation of George IV. It is not only Parliament that Woman's Suffrage will purge of absurdities.

For ourselves, the month has been chiefly marked by a very vigorous campaign in Walthamstow, the success of which was largely due to the popularity and energy of our new organiser, Mr. John Simpson. His brief account of the meetings will be found in another column. The Anti-Government policy could not, in this case, hope for direct success, for the Government was exceptionally fortunate in its candidate, and Sir John Simon more than retained the party majority owing to his high personal qualities, his excellent organization, and the knowledge that he was himself a supporter of our cause. But the election was well worth fighting, if only for the splendid opportunity it gave for propaganda. We doubt if in the history of the movement there has been a finer series of meetings than those organized by all the main Suffrage Societies during the two or three weeks of the Walthamstow contest. We have never met so little opposition, and never known such general favour and enthusiasm for the cause.

What is now most required by the League is, in the first place, to unite with all other societies in making the present suffrage week a triumph, and, in the second place, to push forward the Conciliation Bill by every means in their power. Should the Government refuse full facilities for the Bill this session, without giving a definite pledge to allow full time and opportunity for a similar Bill next session on the lines suggested by Mr. Birrell, we can only say that the result will be disastrous alike for the Government and the country.

As we go to press we hear with the utmost pleasure that on November 3rd, at a meeting of the Welsh National Suffrage Conference of Liberal Women at Cardiff, a resolution "recommending all Liberal Women to confine themselves to suffrage work until the vote is won" was passed by a majority of hundreds of delegates from all parts of Wales, against a minority of only nine.

## WALTHAMSTOW.

THE campaign was opened with several outdoor meetings, and our first indoor meeting was held at the Public Baths, Walthamstow, on Thursday, the 20th. In spite of the short time available to advertise this meeting, at least 500 persons were present.

The speakers were Mrs. Fagan, Mr. Manson, Mr. Clayton, and Mr. Mitchell, and at the close of the meeting we were able to pass our resolution by a fair majority.

The next few days were spent in a strenuous open-air campaign, and splendid meetings were held; the best being perhaps one at Church Hill when at least 1,000 people, utterly refusing to be won over by a "Free Trade Lady," listened and heckled for over two hours.

This was followed by a meeting at Pretoria Avenue on Tuesday, the 25th, which may be considered as a great sign of



the times. Although we were in the heart of the Liberal stronghold the crowd listened with the greatest attention to the splendid speeches of Miss Turner and Mr. Mitchell, and at the end the questions were much to the point, and obviously sincere.

On Saturday the League was represented in the joint procession by a band of heroic but slightly nervous sandwichmen; and this form of propaganda proving rather popular with the inhabitants, another parade was arranged for the evening, which fell in behind the procession arranged by the Freedom League to advertise our joint meeting on Monday.

Feeling ran very high among the crowds in Leyton, and I regret to record that on this occasion the crowd refused Mrs. Despard a hearing, and we were obliged to drive off to another pitch where a good crowd listened to Mrs. Despard's magnetic address.

Smarting under our temporary reverse, we felt that our duty to hold a meeting was plain, and so, having cleared the decks (of our brake) for action, we returned and were most successful.

Our campaign terminated with a joint meeting at Leyton Town Hall on Monday night, October 31st, the speakers being Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Fagan, and Messrs. Clayton, Nevinson, and Kennedy (in the chair). The meeting was a huge success, the speeches went right home to the packed audience, and at the end a few questions were asked and a good collection taken.

There is no doubt that our campaign has prospered; our anti-Government policy, though unpopular at first, convinced the audience of the absolute sincerity of our purpose, and it was obvious to every one that Women's Suffrage has gained immensely as a propaganda, in spite of the Liberal candidate's success.

JOHN SIMPSON.

## TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH, AT 2.30.

EVERY member is urged to make every effort to fill the Square next Saturday, when the Men's League will make its final demonstration urging Mr. Asquith not to choke the Bill. Though this meeting is under the auspices of the League, all the societies are endeavouring to make the meeting a huge success.

Besides our own best known speakers, we shall have the help of Mrs. Despard, who will travel all night from Scotland to be present, Miss Cicely Corbett, and others.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP.

We shall have men's poster parades on Friday and Saturday in the neighbourhood of the Square.

Members are also asked to:

- (1) Distribute handbills.
- (2) Exhibit posters at their homes.
- (3) Assist in chalking pavements.

In any case, make a special effort to be present in the Square in good time on Saturday and bring with you all the men you can persuade to come

! WET OR FINE !

## DONATIONS RECEIVED IN OCTOBER.

ELECTION FUND.		ELECTION FUND.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
C. Yaldwyn	0 2 6	John Russell	1 0 0
E. Duval	0 5 0	H. Arncliffe Sennett	1 0 0
Herbert Jacobs	1 10 0	Th. Gugenheim	1 0 0
R. A. Inglis	0 2 6	Gerald Cator, Esq.	1 0 0
G. A. Smith	1 0 0	H. B. Silver	1 0 0
Arthur G. Read	0 10 0	F. A. Carlton Smith	0 5 0
Mark Wilks	1 0 0	Goldfinch Bate	1 0 0
Jas. Y. Kennedy	3 10 0	G. Spiller	0 0 6
G. Warre Cornish	1 0 0	Rev. W. A. Paine	0 10 0
Hugh Hersey	0 10 0	Tom Norris	0 2 1
Wilfrid Hammond	0 2 0	A. W. Pollard	1 1 0
Dr. A. D. Macpherson	0 10 0	F. Prout	1 1 0
H. C. Naylor	1 0 0	Anonymous (per F. Prout)	0 10 0
Alfred Wright	1 0 0	Cecil Chapman	2 2 0
J. E. Bartrum	0 2 6	W. H. Streatfeild	0 2 6
Charles Herbert	1 0 0	Dr. C. V. Drysdale	4 4 0
J. A. P.	0 11 0	G. Barger	0 10 0
Ralph de Maria	1 0 0	Bernard P. Ellis	0 10 0
H. F. Whiteman	1 0 0	Vincent Sheowring	0 5 0
T. M. Budgett	10 0 0	S. Lorisignol	1 3 0
Capt. C. M. Gonne	1 10 0	A. J. Webbe	2 0 0
F. C. M. Gonne	0 5 0	A. J. Baxter	0 10 0
Humphrey C. Butler	0 5 0	W. F. Westbrook	1 0 0

DONATIONS TO GENERAL FUND.		DONATIONS TO GENERAL FUND.	
Rev. W. H. Paines	1 1 0	P. W. Bell	0 2 6
Jas. A. Aldis	0 10 6	Mrs. Patterson, Acton	5 0 0
R. A. Durand	0 2 6	Hill, Stafford	1 0 0
K. G. Jayne	0 1 0	Mrs. Rintoul, Hampstead	1 0 0

## QUESTIONS.

The Executive strongly urges upon all members of the League to attend all meetings in their own constituency where Members of Parliament are speaking, and at question-time to put the following questions:—

"Will the member do his utmost to obtain further facilities for the Conciliation Bill, even though the proposal is opposed by the Government?"

And, if the member voted in favour of referring the Bill to a Committee of the whole House:—

"Will the member explain his vote which prevented the Bill from being referred to Grand Committee?"

## BRANCH NEWS.

### SUSSEX.

THE Sussex Men's League for Women's Suffrage has removed from its offices at 114, London Road, Brighton, to 134, Western Road, Brighton.

On the 24th the League entertained about twenty members of the W.S.P.U. to tea at these offices, and on the 26th about twenty members of the W.F.L. It is hoped that the N.U.W.S.S. will be able to come next week.

The first cycle run to Ditchling and Keymer on Saturday was an unqualified success. Two open-air meetings were held and the resolutions were carried unanimously. The speakers were Messrs. J. Edward Francis and Adrian Brunel. Next Saturday, 5th November, the Cycle Corps will run through Steyning, Washington, Sullington, Ashington, and Storrington. Brighton cyclists will start from 134, Western Road, at 2.30, or Old Shoreham Road at 2.40. All Suffragists, men and women, are invited to join. There will be work for all. On Saturday, 12th November, there will be a mass meeting of Suffrage Societies on the Brighton Level. There will be four platforms and representatives from about sixteen societies.

Will all interested in the Cycle Corps communicate with the Secretary at 134, Western Road, Brighton? A. BRUNEL.

### LIVERPOOL.

THE opening meeting for the winter was held on Wednesday, 5th October, in the schoolroom of Pembroke Chapel, kindly lent to the Men's League by the Deacons.

Very interesting speeches were given by Mrs. Raffles Bulley, John Edwards, Esq., and F. Marquis, Esq., B.Sc.

The attendance was not all that could be desired, considering the attraction of the speakers.

Co-operating with the National Union of Suffrage Societies, two very successful open-air meetings were held in the Bootle Division, which attracted large and sympathetic audiences.

ARTHUR R. ALLERTON } Hon. Secs.  
E. NOEL FRUNSTON }

### NORWOOD.

THE Norwood Branch, formed some little time ago by the efforts of Mr. R. French, Hon. Secretary, and Mr. John Simpson, with the enthusiastic help of Miss Fenning, held its first annual members' meeting in the Suffrage Shop, Anerley Road, on Tuesday, November 1st. Mr. Simpson and Mr. Mitchell spoke on the present situation and the methods of work which the Branch might adopt.

### MANCHESTER.

THE Branch has done much during October to justify its existence. On the 8th of the month the big joint Suffrage demonstration referred to in my last report took place at Alexandra Park. The affair was most successful. The attendance was estimated by one of the leading Manchester papers to be some



thousands of people, and the same paper declared the dissentients to the resolution at the whole demonstration to be under a score in number. Speaking proceeded from six platforms, of which the Men's League took charge of one. Councillor Brooks, the joint Hon. Secretary, was the chairman at our platform, and Councillor James Johnston, Mr. F. Kirkley, and Mr. George Clancy—the last two being members of the Committee—supported him. Moreover, we were able to "give a lift" to the Manchester Branch of the Men's Political Union, two of our members (Mr. Kirkley and Mr. Capper) speaking from their platform. A considerable part of the organizing of the demonstration was done by our members and friends, thanks being particularly due to Messrs. Barlow, Shaw, Clancy, and Gamble for their energetic "biling" of the district assigned to the League to work up. The stewarding arrangements at the demonstration were undertaken by our members. It is a pleasure to have to convey to the members of the Branch the warm thanks of the local Committee of the

Women's Freedom League for their efforts to make the affair the success it was.

On the 26th of the month, the day following a great demonstration of the North of England Society in the Free Trade Hall, the Manchester City Council by a large majority decided to petition the Government to grant facilities for the final stages of the Conciliation Bill. The importance of this action cannot be over-estimated. It is the best thing Manchester has done yet for the Bill. While the credit for this splendid victory is due to the North of England Society, I am glad to be able to record the fact that many members of the Branch used their influence with the Councillors to bring the desired consummation about.

When these lines appear in print Lord Cromer will have come and gone. What the Branch did in connexion with his visit (which was in support of the Anti-Suffragists), I shall be able to recount next month.

W. BENTLY CAPPER, Jun.

21, Oxford Road, Manchester.

## Women's Suffrage Conciliation Bill.

### SUFFRAGE WEEK, November 7th to November 12th.

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7th.

Women's Social and Political Union.

**PUBLIC MEETING, QUEEN'S HALL.** 3 p.m.  
*Speakers*—Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Mr. Whielen.

Admission free.

Women's Freedom League.  
(1, Robert Street, Adelphi.)

**PUBLIC MEETING, CAXTON HALL.** 8 p.m.  
*Speakers*—Mrs. Despard, Mrs. E. How Martyn, A.R.C.S. B.Sc., Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Maj.-Gen. Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B.  
Admission free. Reserved Seats 1s.

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th.

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

(48, Dover Street, W.)

**MEETING, ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.** 3 p.m.  
*Chair*—The Countess of Selborne.  
*Speakers*—The Hon. Mrs. John Bailey, Lady Stout, Sir John Rolleston, M.P., and others.  
Tickets, 2s. 6d., 2s., 1s., and 6d.

Artist's Suffrage League.  
(259, King's Road, Chelsea.)

**MEETING, 11, CHEYNE GARDENS** 8.30 p.m.  
*Speakers*—Miss Lowndes, Miss Palliser.

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9th.

London Society for Women's Suffrage.

(58, Victoria Street.)

**PUBLIC RECEPTION, CHELSEA TOWN HALL.** 3.30 p.m.  
*Speakers*—The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., Miss Emily Dimock, Miss Maude Royden, and others.  
Admission free.

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10th.

Women's Social and Political Union.

**GREAT MEETING IN THE ALBERT HALL.** 8 p.m.  
*Speakers*—Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Christabel Pankhurst (Chair), and Mr. Israel Zangwill.  
Tickets: 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

Women's Freedom League.  
(1, Robert Street, Adelphi.)

**AT HOME, CAXTON HALL.** 3 p.m.  
*Chair*—Mrs. E. How Martyn, A.R.C.S. B.Sc.  
*Speakers*—Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Sproson.  
Admission free.

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11th.

Church League for Women's Suffrage.

(11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park.)

**AT HOME, MEDICAL SOCIETY'S HALL,** 3 p.m.  
**11, CHANDOS STREET.**

*Chair*—Rev. A. Baumgarten, M.A.

*Speakers*—Miss Abadam, Miss Sterling, and others.  
Admission 6d. Reserved Seats 1s.

Fabian Society Women's Group.

**PUBLIC MEETING, MEMORIAL HALL,** 8 p.m.  
**FARRINGDON STREET, E.C.**

*Chair*—Miss Gore Booth.

*Speakers*—Mrs. Louis Fagan, Miss Murby, Miss Reddish, Mrs. Ridge, Miss Roper, Miss Williams, The Earl of Lytton, and Rev. Hugh Chapman  
Admission free. Reserved Seats 2s. 6d. and 1s.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage and the Local Women's Suffrage Societies.

**A JOINT DEMONSTRATION, MARKET HALL, REDHILL** 8 p.m.

*Chairman*—Herbert Jacobs, Esq., B.A.

*Speakers*—Miss Maude Royden, Sir William Chance, Bart., Miss Margesson, J. Maleclm Mitchell, Esq.  
Tickets: 1s. Numbered; 6d. Reserved; and a limited number free.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

(40, Museum Street)

**MASS MEETING, TRAFALGAR SQUARE.** 2.30 p.m.  
Six Platforms.

**United Mass Meeting, Albert Hall, 7.30 p.m.**

**CHAIR**—Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

**SPEAKERS**—Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Swanwick, Miss Reddish, The Earl of Lytton, Sir Alfred Mond, Bart., M.P., Archdeacon Escreet, Mr. Goldman, M.P., Mr. Brailsford, and others.

Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., 2s., 1s., 6d., and Boxes various prices, from the Albert Hall, and from all the Societies taking part.

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14th.

Church League for Women's Suffrage.

**PROCESSION FROM CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE, EMBANKMENT.** 1.45 p.m. to WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Evensong, 3 p.m.