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Notes.

HAD it not been that we are obliged to decide as to how many pages our paper shall consist of on Monday, we might have been tempted by our own ardent desire and the somewhat better response to our appeal to give twelve instead of eight this week.

Such a procedure would have been regrettable, as without more money it could not be maintained, and the effort which begging entails is even now becoming insupportable.

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,
13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

The paper is on sale at Messrs. Smith & Son's Depots.

OUR readers will have seen the letter which General Booth, on the eve of his departure from England, ordered to be read throughout the country to his people, and which appeared with remarkable unanimity in the papers of Monday morning last. There can be none who do not appreciate the stimulus towards emancipation which such a pronouncement gives, coming as it does from the lips of one whose knowledge has not been limited to "better-class" women only, but whose experience and long years give to his words great weight.

THE results of the Finnish elections are just to hand. It is gratifying to learn that 25 women have been elected to the new diet, as against 19 in the last. Of the new deputies 13 belong to the Social Democratic party, 3 to the Swedish, 6 to the Old Finnish, 2 to the Young Finnish, and 1 to the Agrarian party. Women voted in large numbers, and showed at least as much interest in political matters as the men voters.

MRS. ARNCLIFFE SENNETT has sent us another 4s., being her promised subscription of 1s. a week to the publishing expenses of this paper; Miss G. C. Hay is paying for three more copies of the paper to be sent to her each week.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.

The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.
 Organisers: MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON, B.A. MRS. COOPER.
 Hon. Secretary: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.
 Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN.
 MISS MARGARET ASHTON MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT, M.P. MRS. BROADLEY REID MISS WARD
 THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR MISS EDITH DIMOCK HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL LADY STRACHEY
 MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE MISS I. O. FORD MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN And the Hon. Officers,
 MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT MISS MARTINDALE, M.B., B.S. MISS LOWNDES *ex officio.*

Current Topics.

We would remind our members that our next Quarterly Council Meeting will be held at Leicester on October 9th. It will be preceded by a reception on the evening of the 8th. An Exhibition of Banners and a Great Demonstration will take place on the 9th.

Lady Knightley of Fawsley has consented to be President of the newly-formed Conservative Women's Franchise Association. Lady Edward Spencer Churchill, Lady Penrose Fitzgerald, Miss Jones of Girton College, Lady Lockyer, Lady Strachey, and Miss Louisa Twining are among the Vice-presidents. For information apply to Miss Edmonds, hon. sec. *pro tem.*, Wiscomb Park, Colyton, Devon.

The Council of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women is appealing for funds to raise 4,600l., and thus to free the school from the debt incurred by the new school buildings, which were completed in 1900 at a cost of over 35,000l. Postal orders and cheques should be made payable to Miss Douie, M.B., at the School, 8, Hunter Street, W.C., and crossed to Lloyd's Bank, Limited. We need not remind readers of *Women's Franchise* of the splendid work which is being done by medical women, but we would ask them to show their appreciation in a practical way. We know that we can rely upon our friends not to relax their efforts towards increasing the funds which the National Union is asking for to enable us to carry on the work which has met with so much success during the past year.

On Monday, August 17th, Mrs. W. E. Dowson and Miss Cicely Corbett started for a motor Suffrage tour through Nottinghamshire. The car was kindly lent by Mrs. B. Dowson and Miss Dowson. The towns visited were Newark, Mansfield, Worksop, and Retford.

A meeting was held in the Derby Market-Place on the 5th inst., with the object of taking initial steps for forming a Women's Suffrage Society in Derby. Mrs. Cooper was the speaker, and she was listened to by a large number of people. Further meetings will be held in September, when a Society will be definitely formed.

We are glad to be able to say that we have received such a generous response to Miss Ford's and Miss Gardner's appeal for funds to enable us to hire a second van, that we have started one without delay. It begins work from Whitby, and will travel down the east coast of Yorkshire. With regard to our van work, Miss Pringle, our Whitby hon. sec., writes: "We have had very good meetings here; great interest has been aroused; these open air meetings are splendid for propaganda."

Women's Suffrage Stall in Keswick Market.

BEFORE starting our stall we sent the following letter to all our local papers:—

"On Saturday, Aug. 1st, and several following Saturdays there will be a stall in Keswick Market-place (lower end) for the sale of literature and supply of information in connexion with the Women's Suffrage movement. All who are interested in the

question are invited to pay the stall a visit. The literature includes books, pamphlets, reports of speeches by prominent politicians, cartoons, picture postcards, &c. A limited number of leaflets will be distributed gratis. Volunteer helpers will be very welcome at any time between 11 o'clock and 1.30."

At half-past 10 on the first Saturday morning we took up our position among the other stalls in Keswick Market, and even before we had got our wares displayed we were surrounded by a curious and interested crowd. A friendly stationer lent us a revolving stand for picture postcards; the books and pamphlets were arranged on the stall, each with its price clearly marked. We also had one of the rule-cards of our Association and a copy of the appeal for the summer campaign fund prominently displayed. We drove a brisk trade, and sold twelve shillingworth of literature. We distributed free leaflets at all the other stalls in the market, and asked the stall-holders to send their customers on to us.

We have had the stall now for three market days, and it is proving a most successful way of interesting people in the question. It also acts as a sort of office and convenient meeting-place for our committee and members. We have no lack of willing helpers; there is plenty of work for four or five people, as a good many of those who come out of idle curiosity stay to ask questions, and a group collects very quickly when a discussion is going on. Several visitors to Keswick have given us most valuable help, particularly Mrs. and Miss Martin (of Bristol) and Mrs. and Miss East. Hitherto our stall has only been open during the three busiest hours of the market, 10.30 to 1.30, but last week people were inquiring for it, I am told, from 9 o'clock onwards, so we shall set it up earlier in future.

Our takings so far amount to 1l. 15s., and we pay 6d. market toll each time. The hire of a stall cost us 6d. at first, but now we have the loan of one from a sympathizer. We reckon that the stall will pay its way and cover the cost of the literature distributed gratis. Several customers have joined our Association, and we have had encouraging promises of voting support from a number of the men who have visited us. We hope to get similar stalls started in all the market towns in this neighbourhood.

C. E. MARSHALL,
 Hon. Sec. Keswick W.S.A.

Great Demonstration in Manchester.

THE North of England Society is organizing a great Demonstration in the autumn, and preparations are well on the way. Among the Societies taking part are:—The Federation of University Women, The Men's League, The National Union of Women Workers, The Women's Co-operative Guild, and The Women's Freedom League. Owing to the holidays, definite answers from other Societies have had to be postponed.

The Demonstration is to take the form of an evening meeting in the Free Trade Hall on Friday, October 23rd, and an afternoon mass meeting on Saturday 24th. For the latter, men and women will assemble (in their thousands, it is hoped), in the streets around Albert Square, and will march with bands and banners to Alexandra Park, where there will be speaking from many platforms. The list of speakers and societies will soon be completed, and will then be announced in these

columns. For the 24th the whole of the North is invited to send representatives, and Leeds has, as usual, been one of the first to promise help. Bradford, Sheffield, Liverpool, Nottingham and Bolton have also sent encouraging replies. We want the North to speak as London did; then surely Parliament will listen. All inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, 5, John Dalton Street, Manchester.

County Campaign Fund.

Further donations, with totals to date:—		
Cheshire.—Mrs. Dismore	2 2 0	
Mrs. Raffles Bulley	1 1 0	
Devon.—Miss Allen	0 10 0	6 9 0
Dorset.—The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield		2 10 0
(2nd donation)	5 0 0	
Hants.—Lady Onslow	1 1 0	
"Male Sympathizer"	0 5 6	10 0 0
Miss Rogers	5 0 0	
Miss Forster (collected)	0 10 0	
Miss Westrup	0 5 0	
Lanark.—Mrs. Scott (Glasgow)	0 10 0	11 3 6
Miss Scott (Glasgow)	0 10 0	
Sussex.—Brighton and Hove W.S.S.		4 17 0
(2nd donation)	4 11 0	
From Abroad.—Miss Loppé (Chamonix)		32 11 0
Cambridge.—Miss Hartle	1 0 0	2 0 0
Kent.—Mrs. Little	1 0 0	19 16 0
London.—Mrs. Westlake	3 0 0	21 3 6
Warwick.—Miss Rathbone	0 10 6	284 7 6
		2 10 0
Total to Saturday, August 22nd	£563 12 0	

Caravan Tour.

OUR reception in the Newcastle district was rather stormy, and at Sunderland, Hartlepool, and Gosforth we experienced everything that is usually employed to break up a meeting. At Hartlepool we stood our ground, and both there and at Sunderland we spoke again next day without any disturbance. On the 21st we went over to Whitby for three meetings, which were most successful, thanks largely to the help given us by the Whitby Society. We had huge crowds and big collections, and did a grand sale in pamphlets, badges, &c.; we also got several members. Miss Fraser and I are going to Whitby to-morrow to have a stall on the pier during the regatta and to hold meetings if we can. While Miss Abadam was speaking on Thursday, I heard one man say: "Oh, come along; if I stay here I shall be converted." He went along, so we hope to bring him back on Monday.

I am glad to announce that we have received donations which have enabled us to hire the Whitby van for September, and we hope to be able to keep on till the work in Yorkshire is well done. We are very grateful for the quick and liberal response to our appeal. I wish also to thank three friends who have given 5l. 3s. and 2s. towards the lamp-post bill. Miss Robertson has now taken over the August van, and I have gone with the new one. I shall be very glad to hear of sympathizers near the coast of Yorkshire, from Scarborough southwards. We shall be at Scarborough till August 28th and 29th, and then go on to Filey for two or three days. I wish to acknowledge the kindness and help we have received from Mrs. Baillie (Sunderland), Mrs. Macdonald (Hartlepool), Miss Ainsley (Gosforth), and Mr. John Dryden, secretary of the Independent Labour Party

at Hartlepool. Also to Miss Hume, Mrs. Mackridge, Miss Pringle, Mrs. Kayser (hon. sec. of our Fleet Branch), and her sister, to Mr. and Mrs. Channing Heron, Mr. Taylor, Miss Trew, and others at Whitby for the help they have given us.

Branch Societies.

HULL, Grimsby.—The President and Committee of the Hull Women's Suffrage Society held a very successful "At Home," at the Café in Grimsby, on Tuesday, August 18th. The speakers were Dr. M. C. Murdoch, Miss Annie Jackson, and Mrs. Arthur Marshall. Many of those present signified their willingness to be members of the Society to be formed in Grimsby. Mrs. Holder consented to be the hon. secretary *pro tem.*

MANSFIELD.—Open-air meetings have been held in the Market-Place, where large audiences assembled to hear Mrs. E. Dowson, of Nottingham, and Miss Cicely Corbett. The ladies spoke from a wagonette kindly lent by Miss Barringer, an ardent supporter of Women's Suffrage. These meetings were most successful, and were fully reported in the local press. Owing to thousands being unable to hear the speakers at the open-air meetings, Capt. Clayton gave permission for Miss C. Corbett to appear on the stage at the Grand Theatre, Mansfield, and to give a short address during the interval.

PORTSMOUTH.—A very pleasant "At Home" was recently given at Havant by Miss Hodgkinson, when an interesting address on Women's Suffrage was given by Mrs. Rackham. Mrs. T. H. F. Laphorn, president of the Portsmouth branch, presided. After the meeting questions were put by some of the guests, and answered by Mrs. Rackham. A resolution demanding the Suffrage on the same terms as men, proposed by Mrs. Laphorn and seconded by Miss O'Shea, was passed by a good majority.

WHITBY.—A series of three meetings in connexion with the Women's Suffrage campaign was held at the Scotch Head, West Pier, on the 20th inst., there being large audiences on each occasion. Miss Pringle, hon. sec., presided at the noon meeting, which was addressed by Miss Robertson, B.A. and Miss Abadam, who also spoke in the afternoon, when Mrs. Carmichael Stopes presided. In the evening Mr. Channing Heron, Esk Hall, was in the chair, and the two speakers at the previous meetings were reinforced by Miss Gardner, B.A.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

August 27, Sept. 10 and 24, Hull, President and Committee at Home to meet Members at No. 3 Room, Oddfellows' Hall, Charlotte Street	P.M.	
Sept. 2. Huddersfield Annual Picnic to the Moorlands, Nont Sarah's	8	Tickets for Wagonette and Tea, 2s. 6d.—Applications to Hon. Sec. not later than Aug. 29th
" 4. Irish Women's Suffrage & Local Government Association. — Public Meeting, Mansion House, Dublin	8	J. P. Nannetti, Esq., M.P., will preside
Oct. 8. Leicester, Soirée, Municipal Art Gallery, Museum Buildings, New Walk	8-10	J. Mentor Gimson, Esq., J.P., and Miss Edith Gittins to receive on behalf of Committee
" 9. N.U.W.S.S. Quarterly Council Meeting Morning and Afternoon, Sunday School Memorial Hall, New Walk	3-6	
Exhibition of Banners, Speeches and Tea, Temperance Hall, Granby Street		
Great Demonstration, Temperance Hall. Admission by Ticket—1s., 6d., 3d.	8	Chairman, J. Tudor Walters, Esq., M.P. Speakers, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Billington-Greig, Miss I. Logan, Sir C. MacLaren, M.P., T. M. Kettle, Esq., M.P., Franklin Thomasson, Esq., M.P.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League (late W.S.F.U.).

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

NATIONAL OFFICES: 18, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. GRAHAM MOFFAT.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

National Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

Notes.

FAIR PLAY ON THE BENCH.—We congratulate Mr. Baggallay, the Clerkenwell magistrate, on his determination to put an end to the nameless prosecutor.

A retiring individual, who "couldn't" give his name, charged two women with robbing him of 10l. at 3.0 A.M. in Euston Road. After an interesting morning spent in defying the magistrate, the missing name was discovered in the signature to the charge-sheet.

Modest, early-morning prosecutors who value the peaceful obscurity of anonymity, will do well in future to ventilate their woes in some other Court.

IN DUTY BOUND.—"Women have done enough to prove their earnestness. Rarely, if ever, in our political life has there been a movement which has shown more ability, more courage, and more perseverance. It remains for men, and above all for the men who are the backbone of Progressive movements, to tell the Prime Minister that this is not a question which stirs one sex alone. Not merely from motives of chivalry and sympathy, nor solely on the bare ground of justice, but also because the very idea of democracy requires that those who can be affected for good or ill by government shall have a share in representation, men are in duty bound to take their part in pressing on this demand."—Daily News.

SUPERFLUOUS "CHIVALRY."—Some months back there was a debate between two American colleges. One college, being co-educational, appointed a woman as one of its representatives. She was a good debater, and had won laurels by her eloquence and logic. What happened? The speakers from the men's college refused to debate with her, because they could not be so "unchivalrous" as to defeat her—so she had to withdraw.

Another quaint species of "chivalry" is applauded by *The Sketch*. According to our contemporary there is somewhere within these isles a soldier, newly arrived from India, on leave, who is now sitting all day addressing envelopes for the Suffrage cause, merely to oblige his sister, he being himself convinced that she is in the wrong.

BLIND JUSTICE.—For nearly killing a policeman, tearing off one of his ears, and dashing his head on the ground till he lost consciousness, a Balham greengrocer last week earned six weeks' hard labour.

For doing 10s. worth of damage to the official residence of the Prime Minister (the repairs being paid for out of the taxes to which we all contribute) two women have each received two months' hard labour.

For doing no harm at all—i.e. asking for the vote in some public place and refusing to keep silence—women are imprisoned in hundreds, on their first "offence" for from one to six weeks, on subsequent "offences" for from three weeks to three months, according to the mental calibre of the sitting magistrate.

IMPORTANT FUTURE EVENTS.—Our members are reminded that the first of our Sunday evening gatherings takes place on Sunday next, the second being on September 13th. Full particulars appear on another page.

These "At Homes" will afford the best opportunity of interesting friends from the country who have heard little previously of the movement, as there will be plenty of time for quiet talk.

The Caxton Hall "At Homes," on Thursday afternoons, are also very valuable for the exchange of views among those who have the afternoons free.

In the Interests of Peace.

SOME of us, during these latter days, have been wondering whether the politicians and leader-writers who have been proclaiming their fear of a European war have ever given a thought to one of the simplest and surest means of preserving the European peace—the granting of direct political power to women. Surely if the desire for peace among the nations was as general as it should be—if it was a real and a genuine thing—men of all countries would hasten to make it more secure by calling into their councils that portion of the human race which, by temperament as well as by training, is necessarily and earnestly opposed to that most brutal and unsatisfactory method of settling disputes—the arbitration of war. Can any one doubt that, if the women of Europe were enfranchised to-morrow, by the very fact, the risk of war would be immeasurably lessened? I commend consideration of this aspect of the woman's question to those who groan under the weight of the unproductive taxation which is now, we are told, required to secure every nation in Europe against attack by its rivals.

I do not myself believe that it is only because they have not been trained to arms that women in general are more averse than their brethren to the legalized shedding of human blood which we call war. For their lives and their homes and their children they have been known to fight as fiercely and as eagerly as men; but, as a whole, their instinct prompts them to spare, and not to slay. And naturally so, since to a woman human life is a much more precious and sacred thing than to a man; being called upon to pay the price for it, she knows its value.

Yet the politician who professes himself as above all things anxious for peace, steadily refuses to avail himself of the aid the woman's vote would give him in the attainment of his desires—and half the population of the civilized world sees itself powerless to prevent an outbreak of the national misery and disaster which is spelt by even a successful war. All that the women of a nation would be asked to do in the event of a war (which they could not avert) would be to suffer—and of suffering they would have their full share. The quarrel would be a quarrel made by men and ended by men, when it so pleased them; but the women who had not been asked would hunger when food was dear and pay the cost as surely as their brethren—pay it in tears and wretchedness and bereavement.

Meanwhile the cost of the war game goes steadily on, and from year to year the nations of the civilized world spend more and more on armaments, each jealously watching its rival, and ever on the alert for fresh expenditure and fresh alarms. Every few months there is a war scare, every few years there is a war—Spanish-American, South African, Russo-Japanese. Money is spent, and life is spent, and there is suffering and starvation and crime, and a black relapse into savagery. But the women can do nothing—yet.

What we want Now.

At Weston-Super-Mare, at Eastbourne, and in East Fife, the services of any members and friends who can arrange to take a holiday there will be greatly valued. It is most important that in East Fife especially, the Premier's own constituency, the work should not stand still because of Mrs. Mitchell's illness.

More help is also required at the Caravan. Plenty of work is also waiting for any friends who are staying in town and have a little free time. Address the Hon. Secretary, 18, Buckingham Street, Strand.

Women's Freedom League Caravan.

SINCE I last wrote from the little agricultural village of Appledore, our Caravan has been moving slowly on its adventurous journey. There is a curious speculative interest in it all. As, accompanied always by friendly wishes, we leave one of our places of rest, we wonder what the next will bring.

Our first night at Appledore, for instance, was rather unpleasant, and we had almost made up our minds to stay there only two days, but the strength and independence of the women whom we met there, with the far friendlier attitude of the young men, determined us to spend another night in the place, and we were rewarded by visits of sympathizers to our van, and a really delightful meeting on the last evening of our stay. One woman said to us emphatically, "You have brought new life to Appledore. We shall never forget your visit."

Our next resting-place was New Romney. Here we fell on our feet, for a large, pleasantly-situated field was placed at our disposal by a sympathizer. It is quite close to the High Road of the town, and after Miss Neilans and Miss Henderson had well chalked the pavements, with regard to our intentions, we found shy groups of people clustering together outside our fence; and these, with a little encouragement, were induced to come in, so that presently our van was surrounded by a crowd that increased as the dusk drew on, and that gave us the closest attention. As usual, we had to justify our methods and define our position. We felt, however, that we had the bulk of the audience with us. On Sunday I spoke at Ashford, and was very well received. Indeed, the people there begged that we would bring on our caravan later.

On Monday we were very cheerful. We had a little deeply interested audience on Littlestone sands, and in the evening we held another meeting from our van.

We are now in Hythe; we have had good meetings opposite the Red Lion, in the yard of which our van is stationed. Here, too, we have had good audiences, and much sympathy shown. To-day I am to speak at a garden-party, specially arranged for us at Smeeth. The van, meanwhile, will go on to Folkestone, where we have to arrange for a meeting in the evening.

I am more and more convinced that this is one of the best and least expensive methods of propagandism, and I hope we shall presently have several such caravans as this moving about the country.

C. DESPARD.

East Fife Campaign.

ACCOUNT OF WORK FROM JULY 13TH TO AUG. 8TH, 1908.

ON Saturday, 11th July, Miss M. Scott, M.A., and I went to Ladybank to take over the Women's Freedom League Committee Rooms, of which Mrs. Donaldson, Dunfermline, had had charge since June.

During our stay we found the people wonderfully sympathetic. We remained in the constituency until the 8th Aug., and were present at about thirty meetings.

During the first week we had Mrs. Sanderson, of Forfar, with us. Our meetings that week were held at Ladybank, Kingskettle, Falkland, and Freuchie, and at each of these places we sold some literature and got a fair collection.

As there are no pavements for "chalking" in these villages, my sister and I found that the cheapest and most effective way of bringing out the people was by "sandwiching" and ringing a bell through the streets before the beginning of the meeting.

The following week we had Miss Eunice Murray as our principal speaker. We held a meeting at Springfield, where the interest and enthusiasm of the people surprised us. Almost the whole village turned out to hear us. My sister was chairman, and after the opening remarks I gave a short address. Then Miss Murray spoke, and at the close of the meeting was asked quite a number of questions, the answers to which were loudly cheered. That night nearly every one signed our petition to Mr. Asquith, one gentleman very kindly undertaking to obtain more signatures.

Miss Murray and my sister visited the Colonel of the Camp, stationed near Ladybank, to ask him if a "Votes for Women" meeting might be held there. He was very kind, but found that it was not in his power to sanction the holding of one at the Camp. That evening we had a splendid meeting at Ladybank. The volunteers turned out in full force, and at the close of each of our speeches gave a ringing "Three cheers for the Suffragettes." A few days after this meeting one of the volunteers came to our office with a few shillings which the men, who had not been able to give at the meeting, had subscribed. He also asked for fifty badges for distribution at the Camp.

For several days after this we were able to hold a double set of meetings, as there were four of us, Mrs. Sanderson having returned. Miss Murray and my sister held meetings at Letham, Auchtermuchty, Newburgh, and Strathmiglo; while Mrs. Sanderson and I worked outwards, visiting Cupar, St. Andrews, Crail, and Upper Largo. From every point of view these meetings were highly successful. At St. Andrews we had a gathering of over 800 people. Here, we received great assistance from some members of a Vegetarian Society holidaying in the town. They had seen an announcement of the meeting "chalked up" on the pavements and formed themselves into a procession, marching with flags and banners. The ladies helped me to take the collection, and sold literature for us. At the close, Mrs. Sanderson was enthusiastically cheered, and accorded a hearty vote of thanks. The following day, we had another delightful meeting at Crail. Here Mrs. Sanderson was again well received, and at the close of her address was presented with a beautiful basket of flowers.

The inland meetings were also very successful. At the village of Auchtermuchty Miss Murray gave a stirring address, in which she reminded her audience that the people of that place had been the first to espouse the Chartist cause in Scotland. At this point the men in the audience threw their caps into the air and shouted "Votes for Women."

During the next week my sister and I were alone. At first we were rather nervous at having all the speaking to do, but by the end of the week felt that we had been used to public speaking for years. We held meetings at Colleslie, Dunhalt, Strathmiglo, Pitlossie and Letham. These places are all fairly small. When we were advertising with our "bell and poster" at Pitlossie, the bellman's wife came up and informed us with pride that "Her man was the bellman, and

Subscriptions and Donations.

JULY.		
	£ s. d.	
Swansea L.L.P.	0 10 0	Collections in East Fife, per
Miss O'Brien (Calcutta)	0 1 2	Mrs. Donaldson
Mrs. Spiller	0 5 0	Miss A. E. Lazarus
Miss Feltham	0 1 0	Mrs. Thomas
Miss A. Levack	0 1 0	Mrs. Sidney
Dr. E. Wikks, for By-Elections	30 0 0	Miss E. Chapman
Aberdeen Branch	0 5 0	Dr. Slaughter
Miss F. Underwood	0 2 0	Mr. Teichmann
Miss A. Law	0 5 0	Mrs. Kennedy
Mrs. Hurst	0 10 0	Anonymous per Miss E. Murray
Miss N. Hurst	0 5 0	Miss E. H. Wolsley
Miss M. Hurst	0 5 0	Mrs. E. Mitchell
Miss D. B. Allwork	0 1 0	Hon. Rev. J. Advertiser
Mrs. M. E. Smith	0 1 0	Per Miss Schofield—Collections:
Hackney Branch	20 9 6	Birmingham
Mrs. Barger	0 1 0	Pembroke
Mrs. Wall	0 10 0	Letchworth Branch
Mrs. Fox Bourne	0 10 0	Miss C. M. Dawson
Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett	1 1 0	Miss Greenwood
Miss H. M. Smith	1 0 0	Mrs. M. Snell Anderson
Dr. A. Vickery	5 0 0	Miss S. D'Elsee
Mrs. Mirovitch (Moscow)	0 2 6	Miss E. A. Bagnold
Mrs. Newton	0 1 0	Mrs. J. Hume Clapperton
Part Proceeds of Pontypridd Meeting, per Mrs. Gregory	5 0 0	Miss K. G. Cash
Mrs. H. Thomas	0 2 0	Mrs. Toyne
Miss C. Freeman	0 2 6	Miss A. E. Holmes
Mr. F. A. Carlton Smith, L.L.B.	1 1 0	West Sussex Branch

Mrs. Billington-Greig had once been in her house and had written out a 'prescription' for her man to call out." At Strathmiglo and Pittessie, Miss Clunas, of Dundee, very kindly assisted us. On Saturday, the 1st August, my sister and I held a meeting at Kirkcaldy. We had "chalked" it early in the day, and at 8 o'clock found quite a large crowd waiting to hear us. They were most attentive, and at the close asked some very sensible questions. Two or three suggested that we should come and have a series of meetings there. We had gone prepared for stale eggs and decayed vegetables, and were agreeably surprised to receive a "vote of thanks" instead.

On Monday, August 3rd, Mrs. Mitchell, Ashton-under-Lyne, took over the work. My sister and I remained with her till the end of the week, holding meetings at Ladybank, Cupar, Gateside, and Leven. Mrs. Sanderson and my sister also held meetings at Elie and Buchaven.

During our stay we made calls on many of the residents of Ladybank, and obtained a few members for the League. Occasionally we would make odd sales of literature during the day, one picnic party, which we attacked in this way, buying 3s. 6d. worth.

A great deal can yet be done in East Fife and "canny" as the people are, they are being roused to take an effective interest in our cause.

A. C. SCOTT.

WORK in this district during the past week has been somewhat restricted for lack of workers. Meetings have been held in Markinch, Wemyss, and Methill, where several audiences listened attentively and quietly to our gospel. On Tuesday I spoke for the Dunfermline Branch and on Wednesday, with Miss Scott's assistance, held a good meeting in Kirkcaldy.

An effort is being made to ascertain the exact number of qualified women in the constituency, with a view of making a special appeal to them. Meetings are arranged for Kirkcaldy, Leven, Largo, and Ladybank.

M. MITCHELL.

Urgent.—Helpers are needed at once in East Fife, the constituency being wide and difficult to work, and the temporary illness of Mrs. Mitchell having brought the fight to a standstill for the time being.

An earnest appeal is made for voluntary workers, who are holiday making or otherwise free to help, to give their services in this district.

Branch Notes.

Central Branch.—The Despard Debating Society will meet on 3rd September at 8 P.M., when a sharp practice debate will be held by the members.

P. H.

Manchester Branch.—A cottage meeting will be held on Thursday, August 27th. A fortnight's campaign, to begin on September 12th, is also being planned. Branch meetings on Wednesdays at 7.30. Members please note.

M. B.

West Sussex Branch.—This new branch, which was formed in July as the result of Miss Matters's work in the district with the caravan, held its first general meeting on August 19th at Easebourne, Midhurst. The chair was taken by Mrs. de Fonblanque, and an address was given by Miss Lowndes, a Poor Law Guardian of Petersfield. She spoke of the splendid work done by Miss Matters, and congratulated the members on having so soon formed a local branch. The audience was deeply interested in her arguments in favour of Votes for Women, and went away provided with copies of *Women's Franchise* and other Women's Freedom League literature.

Bangor (Belfast).—After a rowdy meeting in Bangor, I am glad to say we have started a promising branch here, great enthusiasm being felt now where indifference held sway before. When I came here no one had heard of the League, but now everybody knows about it, thanks chiefly to a few unruly students.

The people here are beginning to think for themselves on the question of Votes for Women, instead of having their minds made up for them by a prejudiced press.

A very successful drawing-room meeting was held, and all the most influential women in the place joined the new branch. Mrs. Coulter is president, and Dr. Harriette Neill secretary. We have twenty-three members, each of whom will bring one new member to the next meeting.

JANE B. WILSON.

London Council.—"At Home."

THE arrangements for the first "At Home," to be held at Holborn Town Hall on Sunday, August 30th, are now being completed. The following ladies have kindly promised to assist:—

Hostess: Dr. Thornett.

Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Irene Miller, and Miss Molony.
Stewards: Mrs. Duval, Mrs. Overy, the Misses Allwork, Buckland, Fox, Henderson, Hillsworth, Hunt, Jouning, Levy, C. Molony, Ridler, Stewart, and others.

Refreshments will be served from 7 to 8 o'clock.

No cards are required for admission, and members are desired to invite their friends. Every effort will be made to popularize these socials, and it is hoped that each of the London members will take some part in the good work and feel a personal responsibility for it.

At the "At Home" fixed for Sunday, September 13th, Miss Cicely Hamilton, Dr. Thornett, and Mrs. Toyne will be the speakers.

MARIE LAWSON,

Hon. Sec. to the London Council.

Cyclists' Corps.—Will members please meet at Duke Street, Adelphi, at 3 P.M., on Saturday, the 29th, for a run to Peckham?

HELEN LEVY, Hon. Sec.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. August 26th to September 19th.

Date	Event	Speakers	Time
Wed. 26.	The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath	Mrs. Holmes Miss Lenn Dr. Knight Mrs. Holmes Miss Mary Pearson	P.M. 7.15
Thurs. 27.	Thornton Heath	Miss Cicely Hamilton Dr. Thornett Central Branch Members	7.30
Fri. 28.	Manchester Branch Meeting "At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Duval and others	8
Sun. 30.	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Mrs. Duval	3.30
	Prince's Head, Battersea	Miss Taplin	2.30
	Battersea Park	Miss Molony Miss Levy and others Mrs. Holmes Miss Mary Pearson Miss Taplin Mr. Alberry	3.30 3.30 3.30
	Brockwell Park	Miss Taplin	6.30
	Finsbury Park	Mr. Duval	12
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Mrs. Despard Dr. Thornett Miss Molony Miss Irene Miller	7-10
	Clapham Common	Mrs. Holmes Miss Fraser Miss Mary Pearson	7.30
	Wandsworth Common	Dr. Thornett	7.15
	London Council "At Home," Holborn Town Hall	Dr. Knight Despard Debating Society	8 3
	SEPT. 1. The Fountain, Sutton	Mrs. Despard Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc. Mrs. Holmes Miss Irene Miller Chair, Mrs. Billington-Greig	8
	SEPT. 2. The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath		
	SEPT. 3. 18, Buckingham Street		
	SEPT. 19. Edinburgh Branch, Reception of National Executive Committee, Goid Hall, St. Andrew Square		
	Public Meeting, Queen's Hall		

Caravan Route for the Week.—Dover, August 25th-31st; Deal, September 1st-4th.

. All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C., and must reach her not later than first post Saturday morning.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 38, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.
Hon. Literature Secretary: A. S. F. MORRIS.

Notes and Comments.

DURING the past week there have appeared a number of obviously inspired forecasts of what the Anti-Suffragists propose to accomplish in the near future. Branches are to be formed in all parts of the country, a programme of meetings has been drawn up, and a literary department has been organized to issue a series of leaflets and pamphlets which will place the whole Anti-Suffragist case before the public. It is stated that this department will be under the control of Mrs. Humphry Ward. Surely it is a little inconsistent that a society formed to do battle for the privileges of men, and with a staff on which both sexes are represented, should entrust the duty of providing ammunition and directing the artillery to a woman. But there will be no one, either among friends or opponents, to dispute Mrs. Humphry Ward's title to the supreme command.

A correspondent has sent us a letter of advice to the Anti-Suffragists, in which he points out what they must do if they are to rival any one of the Suffragist organizations in energy and self-sacrifice. "So far," he says, "the movement consists in the issue of a few handbills and leaflets, the holding of a meeting in a room in a London hotel, and last, but not least, the publication of Mrs. Humphry Ward's speech in *The Nineteenth Century*."

Our correspondent suggests that more vigorous methods must be adopted if the "national disaster" is to be averted. Hyde Park and the Albert Hall must take the place of the hotel meeting-room—there will be no difficulty in drawing an audience if the agenda are advertised in *Women's Franchise* and *Votes for Women*. A procession of about five hundred outdoor and indoor meetings, advertised in some 200,000 handbills and posters, must keep the organizers busy for the next six months. No doubt there should also be some equivalent of the "Artist's League," to furnish a supply of placards and cartoons.

Lack of space prevents us from following our correspondent into the mass of administrative detail which must, as he says, be mastered by the Anti-Suffragists if they are to compete with the forces of reform on level terms.

It may well be that they are contemplating such a campaign as our correspondent has indicated. We know that they have money, leisure, and influence; we know that they have an able leader in Mrs. Humphry Ward. We welcome the prospect of meeting and overcoming all the material and mental resources which our opponents have at their command. Apathy and blind prejudice have been hard to combat; we have been too long forced, in Shelley's phrase, to

Strike with the spirit's knife

Invulnerable nothings.

From the Anti-Suffragists we have a promise of reasoned argument. We ask for nothing better.

Once more we appeal to our readers to devote some part of their holiday to the interests of *Women's Franchise*. Our paper is the common territory of three Societies which move on independent but convergent lines towards a single goal. It is desirable that the public should realize that all three Societies know precisely what they want, and co-operate harmoniously towards its attainment. To bring these facts vividly before the man and woman in the street it is necessary that the circulation of *Women's Franchise* should be largely increased; for *Women's Franchise* is the visible and tangible embodiment of that unity from which the Suffrage Movement draws so much of its strength.

Dr. Massie and Voting by Muscle.

DR. MASSIE continues through the medium of *The Times* to ventilate his seventeenth-century views concerning the basis of government. In a recent letter he attacks Mrs. Mona Caird on the ground that her logic is faulty. Mrs. Caird argued that the capacity for exercising force is not the qualification for the possession of a vote in this country. To this Dr. Massie replies that though some men cannot fight and are unwilling to do so, nevertheless force is "characteristically male," just as motherhood is the characteristic of women, though some women are not able and others decline to become mothers. Having reached this strikingly new antithesis, Dr. Massie calmly winds up his letter with the impertinent remark, "Mrs. Mona Caird has fallen into the pit which lies in the path of feminine logic; she generalizes from individual cases."

So it is characteristic of women to generalize from "individual cases"! But from what else are they, or men for that matter, to generalize? Unless Dr. Massie would confine them to a *priori* synthetic judgments of the transcendental ego, they must be permitted to fall back on the logical methods which were good enough for Aristotle, Bacon, and John Stuart Mill.

It is possible that Dr. Massie is really accusing women of generalizing from only one or two cases. But in that case he has not said what he meant, and courtesy forbids the thought that a man of his eminence could fall into an error of wording.

However, let us pass from the unimportant question as to whether Dr. Massie has said what he meant to say, and deal with the fallacy which underlies his main contention. He says that force is characteristic of men, not of women; therefore women are not fit to govern, because (1) Men would not respect women-made law, and (2) Women are physically unfit to apply the sole ultimate argument against the law-breaker, *i.e.* force.

In unorganized society, *i.e.*, in a condition of anarchy, this contention is a reasonable one. In primitive society it is irrefutable. There the strongest is necessarily the law-maker and the law-maintainer. But in a civilized society this is not the case. In this country some 670 gentlemen, many of whom are not characteristically Herculean, make the laws which forty millions of people habitually obey. Does any one imagine that this obedience is due to the dread inspired in the minds of possible malefactors by the physical prowess of those 670 gentlemen? The idea is preposterous. Even if reinforced by the House of Lords and His Majesty the King, these legislators would terrify no one. No; the fact is that the society in which we live has organized itself, and hired for its protection a large body of men, soldiers, sailors, and police, who are physically fit to deal with disorder. The intelligence of the community has seen the necessity for the preservation of order, and the power of the purse suffices to supply the means.

Finally, we would with all deference retort upon Dr. Massie in the words with which he attacked Mrs. Caird. He has generalized illogically; "he has fallen into the pit which lies in the path of feminine (and masculine) logic." If respect for law is maintained only because the potential lawbreaker is deterred by the fear of physical force, then it follows that those who now abstain from lawbreaking do so because they are afraid of superior physical force. Now the addition of two million women to the electoral roll would not diminish the sum of such physical force exercisable by the existing male electorate, nor would it have any effect on the numbers or the muscular power

of the present custodians of the peace. Therefore the fear which restrains the would-be malefactor will at the most not be decreased. However much Mr. Bill Sykes may despise a law made after the enfranchisement of women, he will soon learn that the force which prevents or punishes his transgression of it is as strong as ever. The magistrate will be as stern, the cell as comfortless, the warders as determined, as when men monopolized the legislature. Indeed, it may happen that he will be severely punished for some offences on which man-made law has seen fit to look with tolerance.

All these facts are so obvious that Dr. Massie must in his calmer moments be fully aware of them. Is it possible that his opposition is due to prejudice? That he is seeking for arguments behind which to hide that which to a logical mind is merely a farrago of inappropriate premises? He alone can answer these questions; but, in conclusion, let him remember that even the physical force which now resides in the male electorate was quite recently insufficient to prevent him and his friends—of whom in this respect we would not speak with discourtesy, for they fought for a principle which is among our own strongest arguments—from breaking the man-made law which bade them pay rates for the upkeep of certain elementary schools. Man-made law, or woman-made law, or law made jointly by men and women, will always stand firmly in a civilized community, so long as it conforms in the main to the principles of justice, and protects itself by police and soldiers from the sporadic transgressions of a small section of the community.

Verse.

TO A SUFFRAGIST.

NOT to your eyes, not to your braided hair,
In courtly roundelays of silken phrase,
Lady, I sing, though many a debonair
Smooth-tongued troubadour thus won his bays;
But to a stronger theme I tune my lyre,
Who rather praise your strenuous hardihood
Than laud frail beauty as the sole desire,
The prize supreme of golden womanhood.
I sing that fine aspiring spirit, born
Of equal union 'twixt heart and brain,
Which bids you shatter shibboleths outworn,
By Freedom your true dignity attain,
Nor Beauty's self will grudge the meed of song
In praise of women righting women's wrong.

ERNEST BLAKE.

A Plea for the Suffragette.

BY A SUFFRAGIST.

[We have to thank Mr. Sam Brooks, Hon. Sec. of our Manchester Branch, for kindly directing our attention to the following lines, which originally appeared in *The Manchester City News*.]

A WOMAN once, in a righteous cause,
Appealed to a Judge, a Dispenser of Laws,
To obtain from her tyrant immunity;
But the Judge, he merely replied: "Haw! Haw!"
A dispenser of Laws may dispense with Law,
When he feels that he can with impunity."

So the woman reflected: "This unjust Judge
From his unjust course must be made to budge,
And, since he's not open to reason,
It's time that I tried some different way.
I'll give him no rest by night or by day,
My claims for redress before him I'll lay
In season and out of season."

Now, if one thing will stir man's resentment deep,
It is, to be roused from his beauty sleep
By repeated and clamorous dunning;
Quoth the Judge: "This woman will weary me,
I shall get no peace, I can plainly see,
Unless I give heed and accede to her plea,
And get rid of her constant coming."

So the judge gave way to the woman's plan,
Not from fear of God nor regard for man,
But to gain for himself immunity;
And the woman reflected: "We gain our cause,
Not by Reason's appeal to the makers of Laws,
But—pressing it home, without let or pause,
Because of our importunity."

February, 1908.

A. H.

Correspondence.

Municipal Franchise.

SIR.—The registration authorities apparently hold that sect. 1 of the Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils) Act, 1907, which enacts that a woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage for being elected, or being a councillor or alderman of the council of any county or borough, has not over-ruled the case of *Regina v. Harrald*, decided in the year 1872, in which it was held that somewhat similar words in another Act (now repealed) did not entitle a married woman to be enrolled as a burgess, although, but for the fact of her marriage, duly qualified, because a married woman is not, in law, a "person," her legal existence being merged in marriage in that of her husband.

It is interesting to note that legal opinion is not unanimous on the point. The learned editors of *Chitty's Statutes for 1907*, in a note on sect. 1 of the Qualification of Women Act say, "No title is provided by the Act for the husband of a female Mayor, but the event is not very likely to happen," and the *Solicitors' Journal* for October 5th, 1907, commenting "humorously" upon the Act, asks what will happen when married ladies attain to the dignity of mayor, and what will be the position of the husband of a married female mayor, and whether a spinster mayor, getting married during her tenure of office, would have to obtain the leave of the Corporation to her change of status.

I observe from your issue of the 30th ult. that the Women's Local Government Society have had a Bill drafted to set this absurdity right. In view of the doubts that obviously exist as to the real state of the law, may I suggest that it might be worth while to take the opinion of some leading counsel on election law upon the point, and if his opinion is favourable, to bring a test case before the courts? It may be that the registration officials are wrong, and that an amending Act is not really necessary.

Yours, &c.,

E. W. HENDY.

Hon. Sec., Manchester Branch, Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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