

THE VOTE

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

VOL. I.—NO. 16.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and MANAGING DIRECTOR respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.
Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

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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WHAT WE THINK.

A Vote of "No Confidence."

The struggle of the last few weeks has ended in a national vote of "No confidence" all round. The electors have decided to sit on the fence and refused to commit the country very far into the hands of any party, thus indicating their desire for compromise and sweet reasonableness. It will be interesting to see how the Ministry will interpret the decision of the electors.

A Case in Point.

If there is one issue marked out for compromise on the part of the Ministry it is that of Women's Suffrage. If the fate of the Members' Ballot be kind the Sex Equality Bill will be introduced by a friend, and it is the clear duty of those who hold the reins of office to "star" this Bill as a Government measure immediately it has passed its Second Reading. The Asquith blockade must be removed, for the sake of the Liberal Party as well as for the greater sake of justice to women. The old policy of stubborn injustice has become futile and ridiculous now, and is especially dangerous tactics for a Government that must soon be sorely in need of the support of a new electorate.

The Political Pause.

Between the struggle in the constituencies and the determination of party policies within the two Houses of Parliament we have now a pause. Yet it is a pause in which there is no rest and no certainty; it is the time of the shaping and moulding of future action. The parties far apart are watching each other's moves with hope and suspicion. Coalitions and working agreements, buyings and sellings of party votes, the cutting and drafting of legislative measures is going on under the surface. Future action is now in the making. If reason and right are to triumph for us they must be urged now.

Alison Neilans.

The eight days' secret hunger-strike undertaken by Miss Neilans was a magnificent piece of heroic endurance. It has been described elsewhere as "magnificent folly," and we do not mean to question the phrase. Almost all sacrifice is folly in the minds of the critics who stumble

through their own petty sanities totally incapable of reaching the magnificent. Miss Neilans risked her life to carry out her protest. The Cause can ask no more of her—if it dare ask so much.

The Militancy of Conviction.

The Women's Freedom League never exacts such sacrifice from its members, and when given it is always purely voluntary. No tyranny of tears, of personal affection, of exerted authority, no compulsion of emotional revivalism, is responsible for the deeds our members do. Those who take the danger duty upon their shoulders are volunteers. Their gift of sacrifice is a free-will offering upon the altar of our Cause.

A Tardy Admission.

Two days after Miss Neilans was released from Holloway Mrs. Chapin, her companion at Bermondsey, the victim of an unjust charge and of an unjust judge, was granted the King's Pardon. This tardy acknowledgment of the injustice of the charge of which Mrs. Chapin was found guilty supplies full justification for all that we have said in condemnation of the tactics of the prosecution and the attitude of Judge Grantham. Mrs. Chapin was savagely persecuted for an accident for which the injured man himself was mainly responsible. In spite of Judge Grantham's determination, the Government has had to quash the conviction and acknowledge Mrs. Chapin not guilty.

Liberal Snobbery.

The Court of King's Bench having rejected our Appeal and our members having decided to ignore that decision, the Police Prosecutor has taken action. On Friday last warrants were applied for against the defendants that they might be committed to prison for seven days. It was then discovered that some interested persons had paid the fines of Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, and Mrs. Hicks. We protest strongly against these tactics, which can only be dictated by the most disgusting snobbery. Is it permissible to ask if there is a special Cabinet Fund for the payment of these fines?

The Irish Campaign.

All those members of ours who have friends and relatives in Ireland, or who are themselves in touch with Irish affairs, should immediately place the information they have got at the disposal of the Organising Department. The preliminary work in Ireland has already begun, and no time is to be lost. We have only a few months at most in which to act, and if the Irish Party is to be won to act on our behalf we must have the full support of our members.

In Ancient Ireland.

Irishwomen have great traditions behind them to guide them in the future—greater in some ways than those of their Anglo-Saxon sisters. There are in the old Brehon annals records of women doctors and of women lawyers. There was even one Brigit who became a judge, and whose wise decisions were followed as precedents for hundreds of years. Women Hospitallers and Abbesses without number brought honour to Erin in the grand old days.

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ALISON NEILANS' RELEASE.

HER SECRET HUNGER-STRIKE.

In the Morning.

On Tuesday morning, shortly after eight o'clock, Alison Neilans, who was sentenced to three months' imprisonment in connection with the Bermondsey ballot-box incident, was released from Holloway. Three months in that school for women politicians, learning the working of man-made law under conditions which have aroused the just indignation of every civilised country, would, we thought, have sent her back to us broken in body, but not in spirit. And, waiting outside for her in the bleakness and shadow of Holloway, with the County Council trams sailing like dull white ships with their early morning burdens of anæmic and underpaid women workers Cityward, we felt all the tragedy and the strain of the daily battle of a woman's life; and as we waited there we wondered how soon the chance would be given us of changing our conditions of work. There is no poetry in the early morning—only grim reality; and the crowd of us who watched for the gate to open were not a little sad and not a little dispirited. And it was our prisoner who cheered us up. The gates opened at last, and swinging down the yard came Alison, a little thinner, but brave and young and dauntless, with the light of battle in her eyes. "I'm keener than ever," was her greeting; and, drawing us across the road, she led our shouts of greeting to Mrs. Chapin, who still remained in the black castle of North London. A duster waved from a window answered our cheers, and then we went our several ways, leaving our prisoner free to drive home in the motor that Mrs. Snow, with thoughtful kindness, had brought for the purpose.

At Caxton Hall.

The great interest which Miss Neilans' case has aroused was made evident in the evening at Caxton Hall, when there was an overflow meeting of members and friends of the W.F.L. The delegates who were in town for the Conference, several of them ex-prisoners, assembled in full force, and prisoners' banners, making a brave show, were hung at intervals around the balcony. On the platform were a large number of ex-prisoners, including Signora Cimino-Folliero, Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, Miss Hicks, Mrs. Billington-Greig (Hon. Organising Secretary), and Mrs. How Martyn (Hon. Secretary).

Mrs. Despard (President of the Women's Freedom League) was in the chair. During the evening the greatest enthusiasm prevailed, telegrams of congratulation and sympathy from all parts of the country being received by Alison Neilans and also a wealth of floral tributes. When she rose to speak the applause was very great, and lasted for a considerable time.

Alison Neilans' Speech.

There was a tense silence in the hall whilst Miss Neilans told of her prison life and of her scheme to circumvent the officials by means of the secret hunger-strike. She commenced her speech by recalling the first occasion when she had been present in that hall, the occasion when the Government had disgraced itself by turning out mounted police to prevent Mrs. Despard and

a handful of women from carrying a resolution to Mr. Asquith.

Proceeding, Miss Neilans said that in undergoing this term of imprisonment she had only done what any woman, given the opportunity, would do if she had this cause at heart. If those present had done all that they could for the cause all were equally worthy of the reception given her that night. Referring to the exciting events of the General Election, she said that she felt something like an old newspaper taken out of a cupboard. The last three months had been the longest she had ever known in her whole life. Holloway Prison was not the strange, unfamiliar country it was three years ago, and many of those in that hall were quite *au fait* with all that went on within its walls. After this, her third and longest term of imprisonment, Miss Neilans said that she had absolutely the same opinion of the Rt. Hon. (Coward) Gladstone as before she went in, but the officers in Holloway Prison had shown her as much kindness as lay in their power. "Of manners in Holloway they had none, and their customs were beastly," but a good many of the officers were better than the rules by which their lives were regulated.

Secret Hunger-Strike.

When she went into prison she was firmly determined that if not put into the First Division as a political offender she would make the most effective protest open to her, which she conceived to be a hunger strike, against the conditions laid down. The Government had said that they had no option in the matter; that they could not allow the women to kill themselves; but, as she had told Mr. Herbert Gladstone in her petition to him, there need be no question of killing if the Suffragists were placed in the First Division, which was what they demanded.

After forty-eight hours without food the Governor had come to her and said: "You have now been forty-eight hours without food, so I must have you fed to-night if you do not give in." She had protested against this, and she had suggested to the Governor himself that he should sign a petition to Mr. Gladstone against such procedure, and she had suggested the same to all the medical officers. When the doctors entered her cell they had given her the choice of weapons—nasal tube, stomach tube, or feeding-cup. Which did she prefer? Although she had heard the stomach-tube operation was the more dangerous, she chose this method in preference to the nasal feeding. She was held down in the chair by two women, their fingers were forced between her teeth, her head thrown back, the tube was gradually forced down her throat, and the feeding commenced. Although she did not go so far as to describe the operation as torture, she did say it was the most unspeakable outrage that could be offered to anyone. Directly the tube was withdrawn she had said to the doctor, "The man who instigates this sort of thing is a blackguard." She then both petitioned and protested, but certainly did not expect much from it. After being fed in this way some nineteen or twenty times she began to feel that this form of protest was ineffective unless one were to fight like a fury rather than let them touch one. She then considered another form of protest in the same direction. She had gathered that no one had ever done previously more than six days' hunger strike and that forcible feeding then would in all probability prove fatal on account of weakness of the heart. She therefore conceived the plan of a secret hunger-strike, so she told the doctor that since Parliament had been prorogued and her case could not be enquired into she would take her food. It was then served to her in the usual way, but each day she put it into her can and hid it away, emptying it at night. This went on for eight days—a terrible thirst succeeding

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the hunger experienced during the first few days. On the eighth day her weakness was such that she felt the operation of forcible feeding could not possibly be renewed, and therefore openly left her food. After medical examination, however, forcible feeding was again resorted to, in spite of her terribly weak condition. Alluding to her fellow-prisoner Mrs. Chapin, Miss Neilans said that the Governor had released Mrs. Despard after five days on the ground that she was ill. They released Lady Constance Lytton on the plea of heart weakness, but when they thought her a poor working woman they had fed her by force. Mrs. Chapin was really suffering; she was as thin and as ill as she could be. Her message to the Women's Freedom League was: "I went in militant, but I am coming out a raging fire."

Alison Neilans writes:—

"Sunday, February 6th, 1910.
"DEAR EDITOR,—Will you permit me to take this opportunity of offering my most sincere and grateful thanks to all who took part in the magnificent reception which awaited me on February 1st, both at the prison gates and also at the evening meeting? It is quite impossible for me to write to all those who sent letters and telegrams to greet me or to thank individually all who showered flowers upon me until it seemed I had come from the gloom of Holloway into the gladness of spring, but I do thank everybody with all my heart, and especially those who have shown such friendly sympathy towards my mother during my absence. I had hoped after a week's change to return immediately to active work, but Dr. Patch absolutely insists on three weeks' complete quiet and fresh air, but after that I intend to make up for lost time. I am only sorry that Mrs. Chapin was not with me to share all the kindness which was heaped upon me, but it is at least a comfort to know she too is free once more.—Yours in the Cause,

"ALISON NEILANS."

A RAGING FIRE.

Like every other historical cause, the Woman's Movement has drawn life from sacrifice; it has had its full share of imprisonments and personal suffering; it has asked for proof of human endurance in a test of loyalty, and its request has been granted more than amply.

The news of Mrs. Chapin's premature release came as a shock to the guests at the "At Home" of the Women's Freedom League at Caxton Hall on February 3rd. When Mrs. Chapin herself—the woman upon whom had been forced the ignominy of injustice and the personally vituperative tyranny of a man whose office should be very signal of justice—when Mrs. Chapin made her way in the midst of a tumult of welcome to the platform, only one sentence kept ringing in my brain—a sentence which had been expressed by Alison Neilans on the occasion of her own release a few days previously with regard to Mrs. Chapin's enforced sojourn in Holloway: "She went in militant, but she is coming out a raging fire!"

A Raging Fire!

I saw a woman with a gentle face, voice, and manner. I thought of many things, for the brain moves quickly in the intense moments of a crowd's emotion. I thought of how the clothes she was wearing had been baked, thought of her rough food, of the rough garments she had been compelled to wear, and I thought of the awful degradation of solitude, the awful horror of being caged among your fellow creatures and deprived of the right of speech—trapped and mute, a very animal stripped of every fraction of your humanity with the exception of what your heart and mind and spirit may stir to rebellion within you.

No reason has yet been given for the premature release of Mrs. Chapin's release; but we may feel certain that it is due to either the prison or Government authorities. That they should choose to conceal the reasons for their action imputes a meaning to that action which rests with themselves to remove.

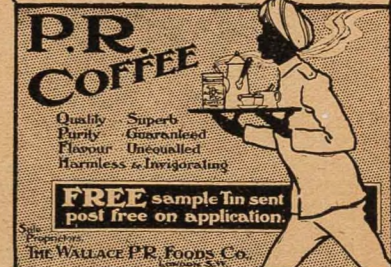
SPECIAL EFFORT WEEK.

A week of great activity will commence on February 21st. It is fitting that we Suffragists should mark the opening of Parliament by strong, determined efforts to rouse interest and raise money for our political fight. Every woman is wanted. There is a special niche for each, and it will be vacant until filled by you—whoever you may be. Offer yourself now and we will do our best to place you and your efforts to the best advantage. We want collectors for the street and sellers for THE VOTE. Our special receipt-books are ready to enable you to collect from friends and sympathisers wherever you go; apply for them at once. Jam and pickle makers will find a ready market for their wares. We have already made the following arrangements:—Sunday, February 20th, a mass meeting in Trafalgar Square. Stewards are needed and men helpers will be heartily welcomed. Monday, February 21st, 8 p.m., at 60, Onslow Gardens, S.W. (by kind permission of Mrs. Hylton Dale), a recital of Tennyson's "Enoch Arden," by Miss Muriel Matters. The interesting part of this will be the beautiful Richard Strauss accompaniment by Mrs. E. H. Railton. Tickets 2s. 6d.; special arrangements for schools. Mrs. Cope has generously undertaken to give a Freedom League concert on March 4th at the Kensington Town Hall, with the assistance of Miss Margaret Stone, who will superintend the music arrangements. This will be a great treat, and all details will be announced later. If possible, a meeting for business men will be held in the City. All suggestions and help in this direction will be valued. A movement is on foot to enlist the help and sympathy of boys and girls for stewarding and vote selling. This kind of work can be done splendidly by young people who can bring their engaging charm and insistence to bear. Will you all volunteer at once, so that we may make this year's special effort a greater success than ever before?

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MRS. HARRIETT McILQUHAM. (A PIONEER.)

The Cheltenham Branch of the Women's Freedom League is mourning the loss by death of one of its most influential and devoted members, Mrs. McIlquham. She was a pioneer, her fidelity to the progressive movements dating back to the days when their devotees were looked at askance by the conventional "respectabilities" and had to withstand petty persecution and ostracism. She was an advocate of Woman's Suffrage and of woman's share in all the functions of citizenship when to be so regarded as writing oneself down an "oddy."

Mrs. McIlquham was born in London in 1837, and her early life was passed in surroundings conducive to freedom of thought and to the careful study of public questions. She was a great reader of advanced literature, and attended lectures on the social and political questions which were agitating the minds of the reformers of the day, and at the same time she was gaining practical experience in parochial work.

Her marriage in 1858 brought her to Cheltenham, where she very soon became known by her work in political, social, and philanthropic causes, especially for her strenuous advocacy for the emancipation of women in all directions.

Mrs. McIlquham was one of the first women to realise the great necessity for women to take part in local government, and by her example encouraged others to offer their services in this direction. At that time the law with regard to women's right to be elected on local public bodies was indefinite, so to test it in 1881, Mrs. McIlquham stood as a candidate and was elected by a large majority as a Poor Law Guardian for Boddington in the Tewkesbury Union. She was one of the first women guardians to be elected, but her return was objected to on the ground that she was a married woman. The Local Government Board declined to intervene, and Mrs. McIlquham was soon recognised as one of the most useful and efficient members of the Board. A few years later she was appointed one of the Overseers for the Parish of Staverton, then a unique post for a woman to hold. She was the first Chairman of Staverton Parish Council under the new Act, and became Returning Officer at the second Parish Council election. She also acted as Rural District Councillor for Boddington, and sat for some years on the Boddington and Staverton School Board and for five years on the Board of Management after the Education Act of 1902. As a Guardian Mrs. McIlquham was a frequent attendant at district Poor Law conferences, and her able papers were always listened to with great interest.

Mrs. McIlquham was an active member of the Women's Emancipation Union, the National Union of Women's

Suffrage Societies, the National Union of Women Workers, and of the Women's Freedom League. Her connection with the League began with the inaugural meeting held by Mrs. How Martyn on September 28th, 1906, to start a branch of the militant Suffragists in Cheltenham. She kindly consented to speak at that meeting, and made the interesting, but pathetic, statement that it was fifty years ago that very day that she attended her first meeting on Women's Suffrage, at which George Jacob Holyoake had been the principal speaker. She also reminded us that she had been present in the House of Commons when the Women's Suffrage Bill was blocked by members who talked out time on the Verminous Persons Bill. She would not, however, join the local branch, but when in October Mrs. How Martyn, her fellow-townswoman, was sent to Holloway Prison for two months in the Second Division for taking part in a protest at the House of Commons, Mrs. McIlquham's indignation took the practical shape of immediately becoming a member of the local branch. Her support by voice and pen has been a tremendous help to the local work. She found the militant Suffragists shared her life-long view that general politics must be secondary to the one great principle of sex equality. Space will not permit any account to be given of Mrs. McIlquham's devotion to her husband and children, nor of her successful management of her farm and estate at Staverton, where she had lived for the last forty years.

The path of the woman pioneer seldom begins to look great and glorious until she has passed away. Those who do the spade work in any cause generally have some of the clods thrown at them. Fighting down prejudices, often alienating friends, they endure all the sorrows of the pathfinder. If they succeed in their own lifetime a thousand carping voices hint that they have their own axes to grind—their own nests to feather. Many a male pioneer has had his heart broken and his spirit crushed trying to light his lamp and show to others the way. And the woman pathfinder has a yet harder part. She has to bear the jeers and laughter which her sex excites when she puts herself forward in any way. But looking down into the future both the woman and the man pioneer find consolation and reward. And so it was with Harriett McIlquham.

H. M.

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MRS. HARRIETT McILQUHAM.

[Photo by Abel Lewis, Clifton.]

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LETTERS TO IRISH AND LABOUR LEADERS. Copy of Letter to Mr. John Redmond and Mr. W. O'Brien.

February 2nd, 1910.

Sir,—As the President of the Women's Freedom League, a society working for the political emancipation of women, I desire to bring before you the position of the women of Great Britain and Ireland.

The result of the late election has thrown into the hands of the Nationalist Party power to determine what measures the Government will carry through the House. Knowing your long adherence to the principles of political independence for Ireland, which can be but a half-measure without the inclusion of Irish women, we ask you to use the power you possess to compel Government action in regard to the enfranchisement of women.

If the ballot of our friends be successful, a Bill to remove the sex disability will be introduced early in the first session of the new Parliament, and we ask that your power in the House may be used to carry the Bill through its second reading and then to force its adoption as a Government measure. Should the fate of the ballot be against us, a General Electoral Reform Bill will be brought before the House, and we ask your assurance that you will force upon the Government our just claim for inclusion as an integral part of the official Government measure.

My life-long sympathy with all peoples struggling for liberty makes me the more confident in approaching you with this appeal. In all the struggles that Ireland has waged for its ideals your countrywomen have rendered valuable service and sacrifice, and have, in fact, paid a heavier price than their brothers.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) C. DESPARD.

To the Chairman of the Labour Party.

February 2nd, 1910.

SIR,—I approach you in the name of the Women's Freedom League, one of the Societies that are working for the political emancipation of women.

The marked change in the political situation has thrown into the hands of the Labour Party such power to push forward progressive measures as it has not possessed before.

The late elections have proved to all parties that electoral reform is urgently necessary. We desire to bring before you the prior claim of women to such reform. Early in the first session a Bill of this nature will in all probability be brought before the House, and we claim from your Party the assurance that the power you hold will be used, first to carry the Bill through its second reading, and then to insist upon its adoption as a Government measure.

Should this opportunity not occur and a General Electoral Reform Bill be brought before the House, we ask that you will force our just claim upon the Government, so that not as an amendment, but as an integral part of the Reform Bill it may be introduced to the House by the Ministry.

My sympathy with your struggle and my long years of work on behalf of the ideals of your Party make me earnestly hope that the claim of my sisters, for whom I speak, is at last through you to be fulfilled.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) C. DESPARD.

PAYMENT OF FINES.

Mrs. Despard has addressed the following letter to the editors of the various daily papers:—

1, Robert Street, Adelphi, Strand, W.C.

February 2nd, 1910.

SIR,—With regard to the judgment given against myself and seven other members of the Women's Freedom League, I hear to-day, to my great surprise, that my fine has been paid. I wish to make it known that I have absolutely no knowledge of how this has been done. My own personal friends are well aware of my feeling about the punishment of fines generally, and I should not certainly have countenanced any payment of such a kind being made on my behalf.—Yours faithfully,

C. DESPARD.

WILLIAM OWEN,

WESTBOURNE GROVE, W.

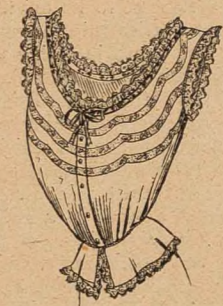
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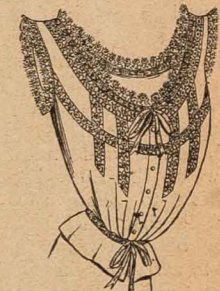
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THE VOTE.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1910.

IRELAND AND LABOUR. THE ASQUITH BLOCKADE.

The hour is significant. Great issues hang in the balance, and among the greatest of these is the political fate of the women of the country. Though the Liberal Government virtually holds office, though its members fill the official posts of Cabinet rank, though there is apparently to be no open coalition between the Liberals and the Irish Nationalists or the Labour Party, the Government will not have a free hand. Its policy in the new Parliament will be drafted under the dictation and carried through with the assistance of the followers of Mr. Redmond and Mr. Henderson. Our fate can no longer be decided by the Liberal Cabinet alone. Those who have the power to keep the Liberal Government in or to put the Government out have the power also to control its policy with regard to Votes for Women. They have votes to sell, which they will sell at a price. And they will get the price they ask, for without them the Government must die.

Labour and Ireland were dwarfed in the last Parliament by the "greatest majority of modern times." But in this coming Parliament chance has given them a position of extraordinary power; a great opportunity has been put into their hands. Ireland holds the balance of power. It can kill the Liberal Government at a moment's notice. Labour holds some forty votes which cannot comfortably be dispensed with. The Ministry, if it intends to attempt any legislative programme at all, must make its plans according to the expressed desires of the two Parliamentary groups named. They are necessary to its existence, and must be secured. The minor parties rule the major. They have the power of its life and death in their hands.

We approach the Labour and Irish Nationalist Parties in this situation, and we ask of them a definite pledge of help. We ask them to make the winning of our liberty, the breaking down of the Asquith blockade—against which we appeal, agitate, and protest in vain—a definite part of the price which the Liberal Government must pay for their permission to retain the reins of office. We know full well that each of these parties has a programme of its own, parts of which it now possesses power to carry into law. But we make our request none the less firmly. We ask of the Irish Party, which will set itself to get a measure of Home Rule, and of the Labour Party, which will require the reversion of the Osborne decision and some legislation dealing with unemployment, the inclusion of Women's Suffrage in the programme of their demands upon the Government. We make this claim, and we make it emphatically. We say that both parties can espouse our cause without the sacrifice of any title of their own legislative claims, that they can add a victory for Votes for Women to their own special Party achievements.

It is not possible for any party or group of parties to hold the balance of power without taking also the responsibility of power. A promise of legislative action in certain directions will win for the Government the permission to live. General help in the division lobby will be given by Ireland and Labour for a certain specified legislative price. But those who give general help must accept general responsibility. It will not be possible for a party going daily into the division lobby with the Government and daily saving it from defeat to hold itself unaccountable for Government deeds of commission or Government omissions. Responsibility will be incurred, and it will have to be faced. No party that has any claim to principles or any hope of a future can afford to endorse a blank cheque for the Liberal Government and then refuse all responsibility if the figures filled in are exorbitant.

Conditions must be made: the transaction must be honourable; the bargain must be capable of later justification.

It has long been clear to all that in the older political parties there is no conscience. Either of them will put its principles into the melting-pot; both have been known to sell their souls for a price. But this is not yet true of the two parties to whom we appeal. There is still some faint hope in them and of them. It will not suffice for them to soil their hands with the same corrupt practices which they have so often denounced, and to urge in defence that their responsibility ends with the paying of their price. These things will not do for them. For them the ultimate value, purpose, and effect of the measures passed, the need and urgency of the measures denied and blocked, must be considered. There must be reservations made and guarantees given—and one of these must be the settlement of the Suffragette demand upon lines dictated by justice.

Neither the Irish Nationalist Party nor the Labour Party can afford to neglect our request. To burden themselves with the burdens of prejudice and brutality and snobbery which Mr. Asquith has accumulated for his party would be sheer madness for Labour and for Ireland. Their only safe and honourable course is to reject all alliance unless this woman question is given immediate settlement, unless the present line of action is summarily put an end to, unless the policy of stubborn negation and legally defended oppression is made to cease at once. It is not for our own sake alone that we make these things clear—it is for theirs also. Those who have a good name, even among the powerless and the poor, have still something to lose.

What can the Irish and Labour Parties do for women? The way lies clearly before them; they can make our liberty a part of the price that the Government has to pay to secure tenure of office. It is absolutely impossible for votes to be any longer denied to women if these parties make their terms on the lines indicated. The opportunities can be made to occur; the power to use them is in their hands.

If the fate of the Private Members' Ballot be kind the Sex Equality Bill will be introduced early in the first session. Our friends in the Irish and Labour Parties can see, first, that this measure is not talked out, but carried through a successful Second Reading, and, second, that it is immediately thereafter "starred" as a Government measure and given an early date for final consideration. Should the ballot give us no early date our friends can still make their opportunity. They can then insist upon a special Bill being introduced by the Government and passed as early as possible into law. These two courses are both possible, both safe, and with the help of the Irish and Labour Parties either could be made the means of establishing political equality. There is a third course also. Since the General Election it has been clear that electoral reform has rushed to the forefront of politics. If any Reform Bill is promised it must be the task of the allies of the Government to insist upon the inclusion in it of the enfranchisement of women as an integral and irremovable part of the measure itself, having behind it the full authority of the Ministry. With these precautions we will accept a place in such a Reform Bill, though we prefer the safe and simpler method of passing a special Bill of principle, an enabling measure which shall apply to all present and future franchises the condition of sex equality. But we ask from the Labour and Irish members a definite public endorsement of this policy, public pledges of their intention to act on our behalf, and immediate action in their negotiations with the Government to establish the certainty of our deliverance.

The Irishmen and the Labour men can make the pace and make the programme. They can keep the Government in; they can put the Government out. We ask them to make the liberty of the women of the United Kingdom the price of their alliance. We hold back our militant forces until we are given a clear reply. But we shall regard refusal as betrayal, and shall be prepared to act accordingly. We wait for "Yea" or "Nay."

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Glasgow.

WESTERN BRANCH, ACADEMY ROOMS, PARTICK.—The usual monthly meeting of the Branch took place on Wednesday, February 2nd, when we had a fairly good turn-out of members. Miss Wilson, our secretary, conveyed to us Mrs. Despard's message to the Branches that we should each do our part in helping to increase the sale of THE VOTE. It was left to the sub-committee to consider the matter.

Miss McArthur gave a short report of the proceedings of the Scottish Council at their meeting at 302, Sauchiehall Street, and Mrs. Wilson, Miss Wilson, and Miss McArthur were appointed as our representatives on the Glasgow and District Committee.

From Miss Wilson we had a long, full, interesting account of her first visit to the Conference. Her experiences there served not only as a stimulus to her enthusiasm, but also to the enthusiasm of every member of the Branch who was present.

It was decided to have a Cake and Candy Sale on Saturday, March 12th, and it is hoped that this will add considerably to our Branch funds. The advisability of holding a public meeting in the district was discussed, but on the motion of Miss Rough, our secretary was instructed to approach the secretaries of the other Glasgow branches with a view to making a joint effort to organise a big meeting in the centre of the City.

POLLOKSHIELDS.—At the last meeting a most interesting account of the work of the W.F.L. in Bangor was given by

Mrs. Wilson, of Western Branch. The audience was rather small, but the wet weather perhaps accounted for that. A good collection was taken. The Branch decided to hold a jumble sale, in aid of the funds of the Glasgow and District Council on March 10th. Particulars will be given later; meanwhile, members and friends are requested to keep the sale in mind, and lay aside all the goods they can which would be suitable.

KIRKINTILLOCH.—At the request of some enthusiastic members of the Glasgow Central Branch, who reside in Kirkintilloch, and who desire to see a branch started in their own district, Miss Kirby gave an account of the "History of the Suffrage Movement" in the small Temperance Hall, Kirkintilloch, on Thursday, February 3rd. It was then decided to form a branch, and Miss D. C. McIntyre was appointed Secretary and Miss McArthur Treasurer. Miss Kirby was then unanimously asked to become the President, which office she accepted. It is hoped to have regular meetings, with a special speaker at each, and before long we expect to have a large and energetic branch.

The £1,000 Fund.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Per Miss Murray	—	Miss Isa Hamilton	1 0 0
Mrs. McArthur	0 2 6	Miss E. Murray	2 0 0
John Crawford,		Scattered Members,	
jun.	0 4 0	per Miss E. Murray	0 8 0
Mrs. Valiant	0 5 0	Mrs. Wauds	0 2 6
Miss Macdonald			
(Islay)	0 6 6		
Mrs. Eliot	0 5 0	Amount previously	
Miss Jean Eliot	0 3 0	acknowledged	193 2 3
Miss Stibbing	0 5 10 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Mrs. McGregor	0 10 0	Total	234 4 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Miss Lawrence	0 3 3		
Mrs. Julia Wood	5 10 0	SPECIAL ELECTION FUND.	
Mrs. Gordon	2 8 8	£ s. d.	
Mrs. Gilchrist	0 4 0	Miss E. Stewart	0 10 0
Miss M. Sinclair	0 4 0	Miss I. Hamilton	0 2 6
Mrs. Meikle	0 4 0	Miss J. A. Morrison	1 0 0
A Friend, per Miss		Miss C. S. Thomson	0 10 0
L. Stewart	0 3 0	Mr. and Mrs. Draper	0 5 0
Per Miss Sample	0 2 8	Mrs. R. Wilson	1 0 0
A. C. Wood, Esq.	5 0 0	Miss Baird	0 6 0
Mrs. Scrimgeour	0 5 6	Miss Little	0 2 6
Miss Wallace	0 7 6	Miss Scrimgeour	0 10 0
Dr. Henderson Pat-		Miss Una McKinnon	0 10 0
rick	0 5 0	Mrs. Reid	0 2 0
Mrs. Julia Wood	20 0 0	Mrs. Pearce	0 10 0
Miss Una McKinnon	10 0 0		
Miss L. Taylor	0 2 6		
			£5 8 0

Edinburgh.

The afternoon "At Home" on January 25th was given by Mrs. Thomson, and that on February 1st by the Misses Jolly. At the former Mrs. Lamont was in the chair, and Miss McLachlan spoke; at the latter the chair was taken by Miss Wood (Treasurer), and Miss Dundas Grant was the speaker. These "At Homes" are serving their purposes, for there are nearly always in the audience a few ladies to whom a Suffrage meeting of any kind is a novelty. The speaker on the evening of January 25 was Miss Irwin, Secretary of the Scottish Council for Women's Trades, and her account of the work done, and the work still to do, to ameliorate the condition of the sweated worker was listened to with the keenest interest. At the monthly evening "At Home" on February 1st, we had from Miss Meredith, a New Zealand lady, an idea of the feelings of an enfranchised woman during an election in which she may not take part, as well as ample proof that her country has found Women's Suffrage neither "bad for the woman" nor "bad for the State." We are now looking forward to welcoming back to Edinburgh Mrs. Billington-Greig, at our public meeting on the 15th, for which Miss Stirton, Ferneyhill, Gilmerton, is ticket secretary. All our members are working hard to make this meeting a great success. Mrs. Nevinson and Mr. Laurence Housman are to speak.

HELEN MCLACHLAN.

THE TREASURY.

A memorable event in our history was the meeting at Caxton Hall last Tuesday. We listened with anxious tension to Miss Neilans' story of her three months' imprisonment and her brave and sustained strike against being classed as a criminal. We perhaps forgot that in addition to the starvation she endured was the dull routine of prison life until among the promises of money came hers of 1s. 8d. earned by shirt-making. We know it was sweated labour in every sense, and the chance of honouring our prisoner was quickly seized. Offers of 1s. 8d. for shirts they had *not* made were sent up by all sorts of people, and added substantially to the amount raised. Please send us a great many more "1s. 8d.'s" so that Miss Neilans' wages for shirt-making may by next week have risen to many pounds.

S. BENETT.

SUFFRAGE SHEARINGS.

Humour—of Sorts.

Threats have been heard of some conspiracy that will render it impossible for men to record their votes. You may imagine a million men waking up on the morning of polling-day and finding that a million wives had hidden their trousers and gone out to spend the day with their mothers. You may imagine a million men scouring the house, and in a turmoil of conscience between decency and patriotism. One or two—or a few more—might risk it, and be arrested on the way to the polling-station as wandering lunatics. But if the women of England, the wives, mothers, sisters, agreed to concentrate on trousers, they could keep about nine hundred thousand men without the franchise and within the home.—*Modern Society.*

Gallant Liverpoolians.

He would be an unchivalrous mortal, whether a Conservative or a Liberal, who could not give a helping hand to a Suffragette in distress. One could not help admiring the courage with which the band of Suffragettes faced the heavy rain as they stood at the doors of the various polling booths on the day of the Liverpool elections, inviting signatures to their petitions from every voter who passed them. Some Conservative workers at the Lowhill Committee Rooms, when a heavy downpour came on in the afternoon, generously invited them to take shelter in the rooms. The ladies did not refuse the offer, and, as it turned out, it paid their cause to accept it, for they were rewarded with several signatures from the wearers of the red rosettes.—*Liverpool Daily Courier.*

Mayfair Suffragists.

Female Suffragists are finding more than one way of advancing their cause at the present election. Here is a notice, for instance, which has been displayed in the window of a large house in Lower Berkeley Street, Portman Square, in the West Marylebone Division, where Sir Samuel Scott, the late Tory member, was returned again on Monday:—"Here live three ladies who pay rates and taxes, but have no votes. Canvassers therefore need not call."—*Western Daily Mercury.*

The Soft Answer.

At the Chelsea Town Hall on Wednesday afternoon ladies were endeavouring to get voters leaving the polling booths to sign papers in favour of a proposal to enfranchise women. One of the ladies accosted a gentleman at the foot of the steps and commenced, "Would you kindly—" "No," snapped the voter, flaming into a passion, "I will have nothing to do with you women," and then (to the driver of the car), "Army and Navy Club." Nothing abashed, the lady, with an engaging smile, retorted, "Ah! the environment there should suit you admirably."—*Catholic Daily.*

Outside the Polling Booths.

We think that everyone who has done much of this work will agree that you get more signatures from working-men, and by far the best manners. Their readiness to sign comes partly from the fact that, being closer to hardship, they recognise the women's need. A man who views women as an expensive luxury is not likely to understand why the luxury should be given a vote; her feminine influence is what he basks in, and this point of view is indicated *ad nauseam* by the black-hatted "gentlemen" to whom all women outside the home are outside the pale and fair game.—*The Common Cause.*

Motherhood.

Leaving the world with one adventurous leap—
Then up and up, flung back upon the shore,
Clasping the precious cup of life's pure gold—
Forgetting, as the sunlight makes it blaze
The weird, black tides that o'er the diver rolled.

ETHEL CARNIE, *The Woman Worker.*

UNDERPAID ACTRESSES.

There are few men in London not actually in the profession who know as much as Mr. J. T. Grein does about the conditions of the actor's and the actress's life, and his knowledge covers France and Germany as well as England. In a keen sympathetic article in last week's *Sunday Times* Mr. Grein attacks the problem of the underpaid actress. From his article we take the following cuttings:—

This is a plea for the women of our stage. Incidentally it also pleads the cause of the men. But I contend that the man, however small may be his pay and regular employment, can, given a certain standard of education and physical force, fight his way to make the two ends meet. It is otherwise with the actress, be she trained in her art, or of necessity compelled to appear as a super, chorus girl, or a dancer. I have received many letters from workers in England crying for work; I have seen contracts with figures that have driven pallor into my cheek. The reason why so many women are attracted to the stage are the social openings and the belief that it affords an easy and comfortable way of earning a pleasant living. Many of these women are attracted by the figures of large salaries, mostly incorrect, recorded in silly paragraphs. If they are good-looking, if they possess elocution and a pretty voice, it is likely that at the beginning they find engagements. They are young, the terms may be small, yet there is hope and a promise of a future, two powerful propellers. Then time passes on, the runs are short, progress is slow, despite increased expense, and emancipated as many of them are from home ties, they find themselves compelled to tackle the battle of life. But to their disenchantment they discover that on the English stage, too, talent alone is not a passport, that the attraction of novelty, of the fetish of society, protection and money, stand in the way of what I would term the skilled labourer. Then these girls go into the provinces month after month, year after year, at small living wages, and become fossilised by bad art or, pulling themselves together, they once more attempt a conquest of the metropolis. It is then the real tragedy begins. There are theatres in London where women of a certain record are encouraged to act or to super eight times a week; and remember what that means—eight journeys in all weathers swallowing eight fares—at 25s. a week; I have even seen documents in which the pittance was a mere guinea. There are theatres in London, mostly under ephemeral management, where the women for a poor £2 or £3 have to provide certain dresses, to say nothing of stockings and shoes.

But in all theatres of London—if there be an exception I should be glad to be corrected—the iniquity obtains that both men and women engaged for a run have to rehearse without remuneration. Often the rehearsals last longer than the run, and then it comes to pass, as it happened when an American speculator took the Aldwych Theatre with a flourish of trumpets, that a hundred supers, who had worked for nothing during five weeks and acted for ten days, clamoured at the door for the first week's salary. That system, wherever it is practised, I call it again and with emphasis an iniquity unworthy of the great profession, unknown in any trade in the world except the theatre. It is an injustice so great that it should occupy the attention of the new blood that is about to enter Parliament. It is also a question which I lay to the heart of the respectable managers of London. Let them remember that, whereas the average man is quite capable by education and opportunity to augment his income in his spare time, the average woman of our days who seeks the stage as a profession is not in the same position. For the exigencies of life under the sway of fashion and luxury are naturally more severe to woman than to man. And let our managers remember this in particular, that to underpay a woman means to drive her to despair—means to thrust her into the open jaw of the ever-greedy monster—white slavery.



TYPES OF ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.

(Dedicated to the A.S.S.)

No. 10.—THE LADY WHO "CAN'T THINK WHAT THE WOMEN OF THIS GENERATION ARE COMING TO, AND WONDERS THAT THE HEAVENS DON'T FALL."

HOW TO HELP.

Under this heading from time to time brief articles dealing with good ideas for assisting the work of the League or increasing the sale of THE VOTE will appear.

We are still in need of more street-sellers for pitches and theatres. Anyone with some hours to spare should apply to Mrs. Snow, THE VOTE, 148, Holborn Bars, E.C.

Our Competitions.

Last week a very good friend to the paper was in the office, and as a practical proof of her belief in THE VOTE produced a bundle of receipts for goods purchased from our advertisers. We feel certain that many readers have helped us in this way, and as the advertising is the mainstay of the paper we have decided to encourage the keeping of receipts on the part of our readers by offering monthly prizes for the largest number sent in.

(1) The first prize for the largest number of receipts will be 10s., or two fully paid-up shares in the Minerva Publishing Co.

(2) The second, for the largest total amount spent, will be 6s. 6d., or a year's subscription to THE VOTE, post free.

Entries for the first competition must be sent in before Saturday, March 5th. The results will be announced in the issue dated March 12th.

"AT HOME."

The "At Home" at Caxton Hall last Thursday was much enlivened and encouraged by the news that Mrs. Chapin had been released, and when shortly afterwards she appeared herself the pleasure and relief that the members felt on seeing her found expression in enthusiastic applause. We are all only too glad that she is free.

Earlier in the afternoon Mr. J. Cameron Grant had given an interesting address on "Why Working Women Want the Vote." He said that the necessity of earning his own living in commercial industrialism in all parts of the world had convinced him of the need of political power for the protection of all workers. Women at present are without this protection, and the ill-effects of this are shown by the utter powerlessness of women's trades unions. Men's instincts of protection had given rise to trades unions—by them men have been raised materially and morally. The securing of the franchise and the legalising of trades unions had put into the hands of the male working classes political power which they use to get from Governments what they want. Women have not this power, and they greatly need it, not only for their own protection, but for men's as well. Women, being powerless and unorganised, under-cut men. All over the country you find men turned out of work by the employment of cheap unskilled labour, chiefly female. In trade there is one golden rule, "The same pay for the same work." A woman needs the power of enforcing this rule, and will not have it until she is enfranchised.

Mrs. T. Billington-Greig followed with an interesting speech on the present political situation. An Irish campaign was to be undertaken and the Labour Party must be prevented from demanding adult suffrage. To do this means a heavy campaign, and more organisers, more workers, more money, and more sacrifices. If we cannot utilise our opportunity now we may have to wait, and a delay may cost us and the country more than we realise.

On Thursday, February 10th, the speakers will be Mr. CECIL CHAPMAN, J.P., and the Rev. Dr. COBB. A. S.

Speaking seriously the other day to an interviewer, Mr. Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) said:—"I have been an advocate of the cause of woman suffrage for fifty years."

Postcards (2d. each), lantern slides (1s. each), and enlargements (1s., 1s. 6d., and 2s. 6d.) of the groups in last week's VOTE can be had on application directly to the offices of THE VOTE, 148, Holborn Bars. This week's group can also be had.

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Lawson, Miss C. V.	0	5	0
Finnemore, Mrs. M. K.	0	5	0
"A Member of the Edinburgh Branch," per Mrs. Billington-Greig	0	10	0
Wrenford, Miss	1	0	0
Hay, Miss S.	2	0	0
Bird, Miss F.	0	2	0
Smith, Miss H. M.	1	11	6
Lacey, Miss E.	0	3	0
Baker, Miss E.	0	5	0
Terry, Mrs. E.	0	2	6
Burr, Miss M.	0	5	0
Gilbert, Mrs. B.	0	10	0
Leyson, per Miss E.:			
Collections	£3	17	11
Tickets	3	2	9
McGilchrist-Gilchrist, Miss	20	0	0
Thomson, Miss C.	0	2	0
Matters, per Miss:			
Collections	£2	1	3
Dew, Mrs. A. J.	0	1	0
Adam, Mrs. J.	0	3	0
Allwork, Miss D.	0	10	0
Telephone Calls	0	5	6
Tudor, Mrs.	4	0	0
Boxall, Mr.	2	0	0
Barger, Mrs. F.	0	10	0
O'Brien, The Hon. Miss	2	0	0
Hicks, per Miss A.:			
Gill, Miss	£0	2	0
Shuker, Mrs.	0	5	0
Parry, Miss	0	10	0
Boileau, Miss	2	1	6
Owen, Miss	0	10	0
Collections	4	8	2
Light, Miss	7	16	8
Maclaverty, per Mrs.	0	10	6
House, Miss C.	1	0	0
Benett, Miss S.	0	1	0
Berry, Miss A.	2	0	0
Berry, Miss	0	1	0
Hampstead Branch	0	5	0
Clapham Branch	0	5	0
Hutchings, Miss E.	0	5	0
Lobley, Mrs. L. V.	0	7	6
Lowestoft Meeting, per Mrs. Ponder	2	2	0
Boileau, Miss	2	0	0
Ballam, Miss G.	0	5	0
Borrmann Wells, per Mrs.:			
Birsting, Miss K. S.	£0	10	0
Tickets	1	13	0
Goods sold	0	13	0
Sidley, per Miss:			
Clark, Mrs.	£1	1	0
Member's subscription	0	1	0
Miss Sidley	1	0	0
Collections	1	3	10
Snelling, Miss N.	3	5	10
Hampstead Branch, per Mrs. Nevinson:			
Rose, Miss	£0	10	0
Finnegan, Miss	0	10	0
Thomson-Price, Mrs.	0	5	0
Lucas, Miss	0	5	0
Cameron, Miss	0	5	0
Thomson, Miss	0	5	0
How, Miss E.	2	0	0
Harding Andrews, Mrs.	0	5	0
Sutcliffe, Mrs.	0	5	0
Manning, per Miss:			
Manning, Mrs.	£5	4	0
Hines, Mrs.	0	5	0
Schofield, Miss (Temperley)	0	5	0
Collections	4	6	1
Close Shipham, Miss M.	0	1	0
Despard, Mrs. C.	20	0	0
Larkcom Jacobs, Mrs.	1	5	0
Margate Meeting, per Mrs. Nevinson	0	12	0
Taylor Brown, Mrs.	0	5	0
Smith, per Miss N.:			
Boukouris, Mrs.	£0	1	0
Evans, Mrs.	0	2	6
Baxter, Master L.	0	1	0
Waterloo Branch	0	5	0
MacNoull, Mrs.	0	2	6
Turner, Miss M.	0	5	0
Collections	1	8	5
Tickets	0	15	3
	3	0	8

Morris, Miss K. M.	0	1	0
Rolfe, Miss D.	0	1	0
Everett, Stewart, Mrs.	0	1	0
Richardson, Miss	0	1	9
Central Telegraph Office, per Miss Vincent	0	13	6
Tite, Miss C. V. V.	2	0	0
Tite, Mrs. G.	0	10	0
Anonymous	0	10	0
Tite, Miss A. J.	0	5	0
Tickets	16	2	7
Collections	6	13	1
Sundry receipts	29	19	1
Total receipts	£1701	12	4

BRANCH NOTES.

Manchester (Central) Branch.

Members, old and new, of the Manchester Branch are reminded that the usual Branch meetings are held on Thursdays at the Office of the Women's Trade Union Council, 9, Albert Square, for business at 7.30 p.m.; for propaganda work at 8 p.m. The attendance recently has been so small as to reflect little credit on a large branch, and it will be difficult to carry out the proposed programme for this session unless there is an improvement in this respect. On Thursday, January 27th, papers were read by Miss Hordern and Miss Horsfall on "Some Objections to the Women's Movement," and an interesting discussion followed. At the business meeting plans for raising money were discussed, and it was decided to hold a jumble sale in March (will friends please note, and address articles for that to me at 9, Albert Square?), and, if possible, a whist drive immediately after Easter. The dates will be decided later. On behalf of the Treasurer it was stated that many subscriptions were still due from November, 1909, and as recent expenses have been heavy, she would be glad to receive them. They should be forwarded to Miss M. Quinn, 9, Albert Square. On Thursday, February 3rd, Miss Neal gave a report of the Annual Conference, and Miss Manning (District Organiser) spoke of the work to be done in preparation for another possible General Election, and gave notice of a special meeting of all the local branches to discuss the sale of THE VOTE and other organised and active work. It was decided that the Branch should not hold its ordinary meeting on February 10th, but should support Miss Manning, who is speaking at the Congregational School, Levenshulme, on that night. On Thursday, November 17th, we hope to have a paper from Miss Bowerbank on "Laws in favour of the Woman."—M. I. NEAL, President.

Members of the district branches are asked to take particular note of the meeting (advertised in this issue) on Monday, February 14th, at 7.30 p.m. in the Room of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 9, Albert Square, when the formation of a VOTE Brigade and other matters of importance to local organisation will be discussed.—M. E. MANNING.

Norwich.

Our Branch of the Women's Freedom League in Norwich is an infant organisation—the result of Miss Tillard's summer caravan-tour in East Anglia—but it has recently organised the most entertaining and the most subtly persuasive Suffrage meeting that has ever been held in this city. An audience of between 400 and 500—a large proportion being teachers from the elementary schools—filled to overflowing one of our most picturesque halls, the Thatched Assembly Rooms, to enjoy a varied programme. Our leading local paper, the *Eastern Daily Press*, gave an appreciative three-quarters of a column in its honour. By the great kindness of a company of amateur actors gathered together by Miss Edith Collins a capital performance of "How the Vote Was Won" was presented to a very appreciative audience, and afterwards Miss Muriel Matters, who had travelled down from town specially to give us a helping hand, held her audience spellbound for nearly an hour and a half. Miss Matters has to a supreme degree the art of winning her hearers to her point of view. "She'd convert all Norwich if she stayed here a week" was the verdict of one of her converts. We had assembled for her an audience very largely indifferent to the Suffrage movement and bitterly opposed to militant tactics; yet they sat there entranced by her eloquence and charm. The committee of the Branch—Mrs. Fred. Henderson, Mrs. Cooke, Miss Sheehan, and Miss Margaret Jewson (Hon. Secretary)—who worked strenuously in organising this very successful meeting, are immensely encouraged and cheered by the results.

Swinton.

The scene for our jumble sale is changed, but the date remains the same. It is now to be Saturday, February 12th, at three o'clock, in the Congregational Schools, Chapel-street, Pendlebury. Remember, bill distributors and collectors are needed for Friday evening; helpers for Saturday morning and afternoon; VOTE sellers and collectors for Saturday evening; and send word at once to Newholme, Hazlehurst, Worsley, that you intend to do your share of the work. Meanwhile let every member go armed with a piece of chalk and announce in Pendlebury the sale, in

ACTRESSES' "AT HOME."

The Actresses' Franchise League held its first reception of the season in the Victoria Hall of the Criterion Restaurant on the afternoon of the 4th inst.

The guests were received by Mrs. Madeline Lucette Ryley and Miss Granville presided. The room was filled to overflowing by a most appreciative audience, and the opening speeches of Mr. A. Campbell-Johnston (hon. counsel to the A.F.L.) and of Major-General Sir Alfred Turner aroused frequent applause.

Miss Christabel Pankhurst, in a charming and lucid address, put before the professional women among her hearers the position to-day of working women of all grades, explaining how they were likely to be affected in the future by the present trend of party politics. She declared the question of Votes for Women to be one of "bread and butter," for the reason that as the various

Swinton the meeting in the Market Place at seven o'clock on the same day. So shall our sale be successful.

Thursday, February 3rd, saw us in Eccles, addressing the Literary Debating Society. It has given us a foothold in that place, which we do not intend to lose. Let but the sun shine, and we begin our open-air campaign there. I prophesy an Eccles Branch before the spring is over. Play up, Swinton! There's a fight to be fought and a whole district to be won for "the Cause." Stand firm and keep true.—JANET HEVES.

Ipswich.

On Thursday afternoon, February 10th, we held a meeting at our club house to discuss the late General Election. Extracts from newspapers were read and facts stated bearing upon the disorderly methods which characterised a great part of the campaign. It was generally considered by the audience that the militant tactics used by women who are voteless have been mild compared with those adopted as election tactics by men who have the vote.

On Friday evening, February 11th, we held a meeting at Wetherden. Mrs. Henry Tippett had taken great pains to get a good meeting together, and was rewarded by quite a large



THE NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE.—Standing (Left to Right): Miss MANNING, B.A., Mrs. SANDERSON, Mrs. HOLMES, Mrs. VULLIAMY, Mrs. HICKS, Mrs. ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT, Mrs. WOOD, Mrs. CLEEVES, Miss MATTERS, Mrs. SPROSON. Seated (Left to Right): Mrs. HOW MARTYN, Mrs. DESPARD (President), Mrs. BILLINGTON-GREIG, Miss BENETT, Mrs. SNOW. (Mrs. MANSON absent through illness.)

gathering. We had been informed we should have a rowdy time, but the men were extremely interested in listening to an account of the women's movement and checked all attempts made by the noisy section to upset the meeting. I was in the chair, and the speakers were Mrs. Henry Tippett and Mrs. Hossack.—C. E. ANDREWS.

West Sussex.

Petworth has had little attention from the Branch in the way of propaganda, but on Wednesday last a very successful meeting was held in the afternoon in the Swan Assembly Rooms. The Rev. Hugh Chapman, chaplain of the Savoy Chapel Royal, had promised to speak, but owing to indisposition was obliged to cancel the engagement, and so our ever-ready friend Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett slipped into the breach, although herself requiring the much-needed rest she is now seeking. We were also fortunate in securing the services of Major-General Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.M.G., R.A., as a speaker, and, with Mrs. de Fonblanque in the chair and Miss Cummin (the Secretary of the Branch) as another speaker, the audience lacked nothing to complete their conversion. The hall was well filled, in spite of inclement weather, and considerable ticket money, a good collection, and a fair sale of literature added to the gratification of those who so successfully organised the meeting.—ANNIE N. ROFF.

Sheffield.

Two out of the five Sheffield members of Parliament have received joint-deputations of the Women's Freedom League, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and the Women's Social and Political Union. These two were Mr. Stuart-Wortley and Mr. Samuel Roberts. They both promised to vote for the second reading of a Bill on the same lines as Mr. Stanger's Bill.—D. E.

demands of men voters became more and more insistent women were being gradually pushed out of first one occupation and then another and their prospects of earning a livelihood seriously threatened. Referring to the dismissal of married-women teachers from the Council schools, Miss Pankhurst aroused considerable merriment by asking the actresses present how they would like to be compulsorily retired from the stage on their marriage, adding that they retained their positions only because they were indispensable and the theatres could not get along without them.

Miss Maud Hoffman (Hon. Treasurer) in a graceful little speech explained that though all friends and sympathisers might not be eligible for membership of the A.F.L., the League was prepared to accept and enrol "patrons" who, while contributing to the funds, would otherwise support its aims and objects.

As a result of her appeal many names were sent up to the platform, and the amounts promised, together with a collection taken in the room, make a substantial addition to the A.F.L. coffers.

NOTE.—Last week, in the Cash Statement, under "Collections," £582 14s. was put instead of £582 4s. This is an error. The Treasury was crowded out last week, and we cannot bring it up to date till next week. All "shirt money" will be acknowledged then.

101 POINTS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

These points will cover the legal, social, and economic grounds on which women demand the vote, and will call attention to the glaring inconsistencies which demand a change in the present condition of the franchise.

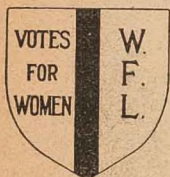
6—BECAUSE UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS A MARRIED WOMAN HAS NO RIGHT EVEN TO THE WAGES OF A SERVANT OR HOUSEKEEPER IN RETURN FOR THE SERVICES SHE RENDERS IN THE HOME.

Practically all that a wife has a right to is a pauper's maintenance, and even that she cannot herself enforce. It is only when she is separated from her husband that a certain fixed income is given to her, more or less suitable to her condition of life calculated upon a minimum scale.

I do not suggest that an extravagant money value should be placed on these services which women render, but it is only right that a wife who works diligently and devotedly in the family service should be entitled to such wages of a servant or housekeeper as are usual in that station of life in which she lives, and this in addition to her board. . . . The recognition of a wife's claim to wages might be brought into operation where a husband spends on his selfish enjoyment the money which ought to be given to feed and maintain his wife and family.—LADY MCLAREN.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.



Thurs., Feb. 10th **Caxton Hall**, 3 to 6: Mr. Cecil M. Chapman and the Rev. Dr. Cobb.

Thurs., Feb. 10th **Willesden and Maida Vale Branch**: Meeting at 14, Great Western Road, Paddington. Rev. C. Hinscliff. All members earnestly requested to attend to hear delegates' report of the Annual Conference.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Thurs., Feb. 17th **Caxton Hall**, 3 to 6: Mrs. K. Parkes and Mr. Bart Kennedy.

Thurs., Feb. 24th **Caxton Hall**, 3 to 6: Mrs. Chapin and Mr. H. W. Nevinson.

THE PROVINCES.

Thurs., Feb. 10th.—Sunderland: Social Gathering, Westcott House.

SCOTLAND.

Tues., Feb. 15th.—Edinburgh, Café Vegetaria, 4 p.m.: "At Home."

Tues., Feb. 15th.—Edinburgh, Oddfellows' Hall, at 8 p.m.: Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, Mr. Laurence Housman; chair, Mrs. Billington-Greig.

Tues., Feb. 22nd.—Edinburgh, Café Vegetaria, 4 p.m.: "At Home."

Tues., Feb. 22nd.—Edinburgh, Café Vegetaria, 8 p.m.: Mr. John A. Young.

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association. Offices: 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly.

A series of "At Homes" to members and their friends will be held at St. George's (Hanover Square) Hall, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, on Wednesdays, February 16th and March 2nd and 16th, 4.30 to 6.30 p.m. The hostesses are the Lady Knightley of Fawsley (President of the Association), the Countess of Gallo-way, and the Lady Willoughby de Eresby; and amongst the speakers will be the Lady Betty Balfour, the Hon. Mrs. John Bailey, Mrs. Uniacke, Miss Tuke (principal of Bedford College), the Master of the Temple, &c., &c.

The Kensington, Belgravia and Chelsea, Marylebone and Paddington Branches are holding a succession of drawing-room meetings, and there will be a public meeting at the Chelsea Town Hall on Friday evening, February 18th, when Mrs. Percy Boulnois and Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., will be amongst the speakers.

The second number of the "Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Review" (quarterly, 2d. a copy, or 1s. a year, including postage) will be issued on February 14th. **N.W.S.P.U.**

Now that a new Government has been elected, the Union, following its policy, will give it every chance to deal fairly with the question of women's enfranchisement. Every effort will be made in a constitutional way to gain this end, and no

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further militant action will be taken unless the Government makes it necessary.

During the last week the experiences of several prisoners have been published for the first time. Lady Constance Lytton, both in the Press and in her interesting speech at the Queen's Hall meeting, explained something of the terrible suffering she had undergone. Miss Bryant, Miss Brewster, and Miss Leslie Hall have also described the brutal and insulting treatment to which they were subjected. Probably the Government realises how its reputation must be damaged by such stories, for the welcome news has come that Miss Selina Martin and Miss Elsie Howey, whose sentences would not have expired until the middle of February, have been released a fortnight before their time.

AN IMPRESSION OF THE ELECTION.

The Chancellor and His Followers.

If it be true that a reformer can be judged by the type of follower he and his word produce, then can we arrive at a pretty accurate idea of what manner of man the Chancellor of the Exchequer really is.

Of the Welsh people the dominant virtues are a certain pride in themselves and their country, a love of independence, energy and enthusiasm, lively imagination, and a keen sense of humour. But over and above all, in the breast of Wales' children, dwells harmony, an imprisoned bird of song. It needs but the master voice to call, and rise they must to the greatest mental and spiritual heights. Such a one has called, with the magic gift in his power. The power has been used, travestied, alas! to inglorious ends. Too near, perhaps, are we just now to read quite clear and true, but the impression conveyed in strong, vivid flashes to our searching eyes is this: the pride has turned to arrogance and intolerance, the love of independence has dropped to anarchy, the energy and enthusiasm has turned to fierceness and brutality, the sense of humour and lively imagination has changed to sneering cynicism and disregard for truth. Harmony has fled, and discord sits enthroned. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has had this effect on a section of the Welsh people. Judge, then, what manner of man he really is.

MURIEL MATTERS.

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